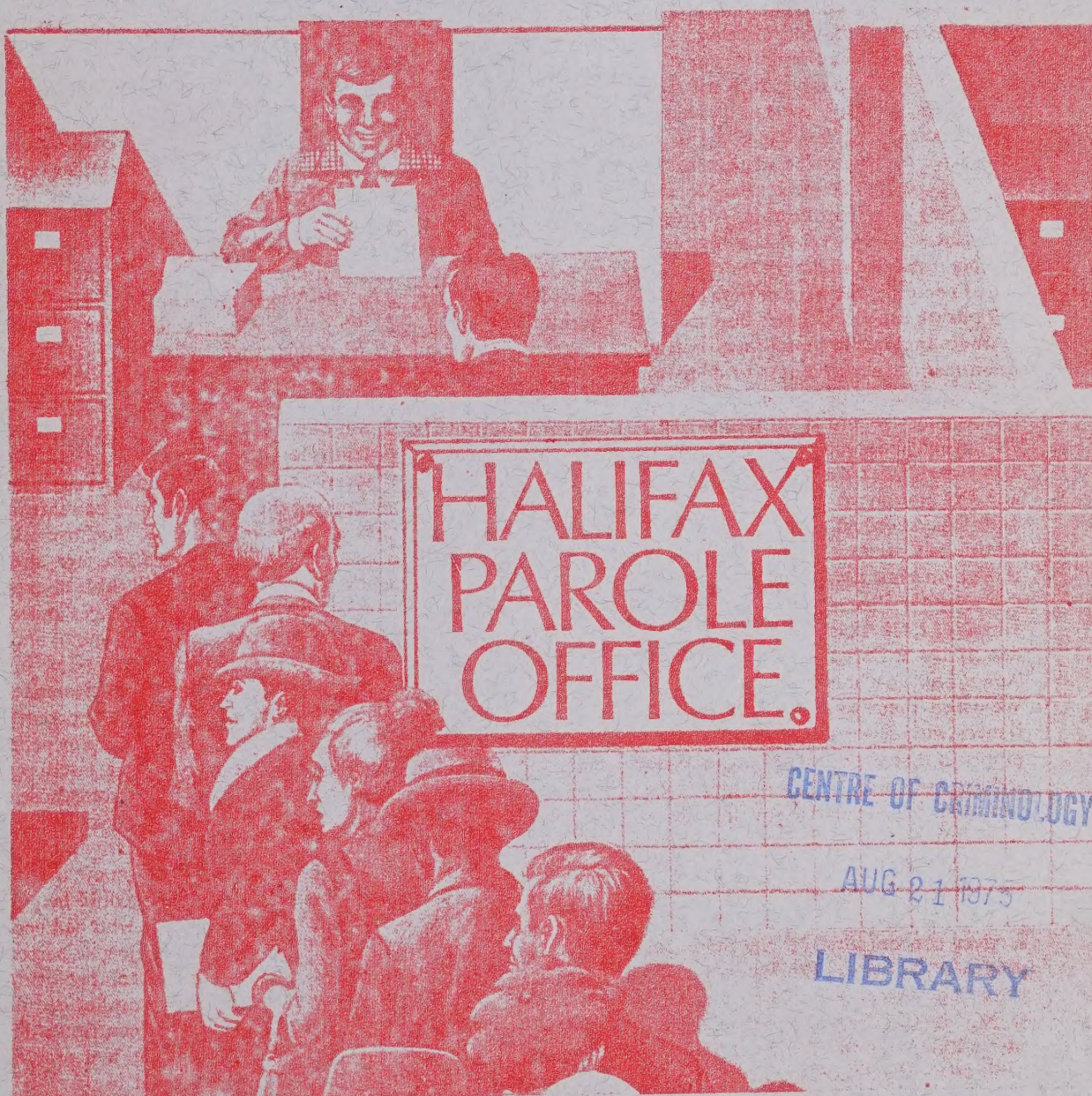


VOL. IV,
NO. 4

THE
COMMUNICATOR
SPRINGHILL
APRIL-MAY '75



**Out of the Files
and Into the Streets**



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761075965871>



PUBLISHING BOARD:

BILL LESLIE, LUDO
ARDEN THURBER, HSD

COMMUNICATOR STAFF:

Bob Eby, Editor.
David Bloomfield, Managing Editor and
Graphic Design

John Ettinger, Assoc. Editor
Frank Oliver, Assoc. Editor

ONLY OPINIONS EXPRESSED ON EDITORIAL PAGES BELONG TO THE COMMUNICATOR. ALL ELSE HEREIN IS OF DESIGNATED AUTHORS. THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE COMMISSIONER OF PENITENTIARIES, THE DIRECTOR OR ADMINISTRATION OF SPRINGHILL PENITENTIARY DO NOT NECESSARILY CONCUR WITH OPINIONS EXPRESSED HERE, THOUGH THEY GRACIOUSLY ALLOW US TO PUBLISH. OUR EDITORIAL POLICY IS FLEXIBLE AND ALLOWS FOR FREE EXPRESSION -- PROVIDING NO STAFF NAMES ARE USED AND OPINIONS DO NOT GET PASSED OFF AS FACT -- ON THE REALIZATION THAT THE WRITER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS STATEMENTS.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES AND CIRCULATION:

ALL SPRINGHILL PRISONERS ARE ENTITLED TO A FREE COPY UPON REQUEST.

MAILED TO "FREEMEN" OUTSIDE:
12 issues \$5.00

MAILED TO PRISONERS:
12 issues \$4.00

DELIVERY IN INSTITUTION TO
STAFF: \$3.00

CONTENTS

LETTERS.....	2
EDITORIAL.....	5

"MARIJUANA MADNESS" (Feature) by D. Bloomfield.	6
--	---

"THE HALIFAX PAROLE OFFICE" (A Special) Edited by B.E..	9
With JOHN UNROE.....	10
With TOM SHARPE.....	12
With DAVE MOORE.....	15
With RON BROOKS.....	17
With LORRAINE CASEY.....	20
With OSCAR MILLER.....	22

"MAKIN' OUT: 'LADY MADONNA'" (Fiction) by John Ettinger.	25
---	----

"AT LARGE: A PRISON JOURNAL" (Fiction) by Cymbol.....	27
--	----

"POYLS OF WISDOM" (A Spoof) by Parahamster Donut.....	29
--	----

POETRY SECTION.....	31
---------------------	----

"P.M. IN THE P.M." (A Review) by Bob Eby.....	37
"ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" (A Review) by Bob Eby.....	38

"A PERSON OF VALUE" (Article) by Robert Baillie.....	40
"A LOOK AT DEAN PELTON"....	41
"SUGGEST JAYCEE UNIT HELPS INMATES".....	41
"IT'S TOUGH ON THE OUTSIDE TOO"—Coverage on "CONCERN"	42
"C.P.S. TO STUDY 'HOLE'"...	43
"WHAT DO YOU OFFER?" by John David Prince.....	44

"COMMUNITY SUPPORTS CONS"..	45
-----------------------------	----

"ACCENT ON YOUTH" (Article) by Tom McIlvena.....	48
CITIZENS' ADVISORY REPORT..	48
UNIT REPORTS.....	50
"GROUND HOCKEY" T. Rousson.	52
"PHOENIX ALL-STARS"— Oliver	53
BOOK REVIEW by Frank Oliver	55
FORTUNE SOCIETY BOOKS.....	56

MEMBER
COSMOPOLITAN
COMMITTEE OF SMALL MAGAZINE
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS
BOX 701 SAN FRANCISCO CA 94101

LETTERS

Fredericton, N.B.
February 21, 1975

The Communicator,
P.O. Box 2140,
SPRINGHILL, N.S.

Dear Sirs:

I have succumbed to your brilliant advertisements to "subscribe." On visits to Springhill Institution, I have purchased the Communicator when available in the Visitor's Room. Now, I shall look forward to receiving it monthly and not missing one word of your interesting and provocative articles.

Many thanks for a worthwhile publication.

Sincerely,
M. Griesbach.

P.S. Enclosed please
find cheque for \$5.00

EDITOR'S NOTE: Being the male chauvinist that I am, "succumbed" is such a lovely word. Thank you for your kind comments.

TO: Eric S. Fielder

FROM: Frank White,
Regional Librarian. (Ont.)

21/2/75

Eric:

Caught your interview in the Communicator and was struck by the degree of similarity between your comments and those of Lamar Empey in The Time Game. You have probably read it, but in case you haven't, I have enclosed excerpts from his analysis.

You apparently agree with Empey that it is difficult to be anything but pessimistic about the present or potential effectiveness of correctional institutions in terms of preparing inmates for successful re-entry to the community (given their present organizational structure).

If this is correct, I would be interested to learn how you rationalize remaining in the employ of the C.P.S.

Say hello to for me.

Regards,

Frank.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This editor would be interested in learning how Eric Fielder does it; perhaps he'll write about it if he gets enough encouragement. Should make for pretty interesting reading....

Winnipeg, Man.

Jan. 17, 1975.

The Communicator,
SPRINGHILL, Nova Scotia.

The Editor:

Inmates are turning out works of such excellent quality: publications, studies, programmes, productions, etc. The Communicator seems to be one example of how offenders themselves are doing their fair share of educating the public about the penal set-up and the great potential hidden behind the walls of our prisons. I am not surprised, as I have met several clever and multi-talented men among federal inmates, but I am impressed by the consistent, determined effort of prisoners today.

I have a request for some reaction from the people of Springhill Institution to this query of mine. I have heard that the living unit programme introduced into Springhill several years ago is functioning passably well. I am also given to understand that the Solicitor General's Department is attempting to push this concept onto several penitentiaries across Canada, one of which is Stony Mountain, Manitoba. The concept as outlined in the booklet, "A Key to Change," a C.P.S. publication, sounds acceptable. I would like communication and interpersonal relationships to become a focus of corrections. However, I fail to see how existing prisons can hope to simulate the society that the inmates will be returning to as long as, for example, they are unisexual and largely closed environments. More confusing to me, yet, is how the older prisons can be transformed into living units. And how does the Penitentiary Service hope to cope with the inevitable resistance to come from the "old-timers" among inmates and staff? I am not suggesting that the living unit programme is not an improvement over strictly punitive measures. I am merely wondering if the C.P.S. is not starting on the wrong end by trying to revamp unsuccessful programmes within outdated, isolated institutions. Might it not be preferable to develop better preventative programmes and community-based institutions so that some

offenders could be helped to avoid the harsher consequences of the medium and maximum security penitentiaries?

I would appreciate your comments on this. I hope the Communicator has a very successful year.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Schmitz

Ms. Yvonne Schmitz,
WINNIPEG, Manitoba.

May 23rd, 1975.

Dear Ms. Schmitz,

Owww! This is painful.

On Thursday just past, I was handed a letter you had written to us on the 17th of January 1975. What has happened is this: I have been "ghost-editing" the Communicator for the last six months and my accomplice, Ivan Paracy, has been carrying the banner and doing all of the lay-out and business things. Sometime just after Christmas he became preoccupied with parole applications and the possibilities therein, and has finally scored as of last week. Your letter was found among a number of other pieces of "unfinished business."

I want to apologize to you for this seeming slight. After writing the quality of letter you wrote, you would be perfectly within your rights to be insulted by our not paying you the courtesy of responding to your very fine letter and questions. It is obvious that you are seriously interested in "corrections" and that you spent considerable time in composing your letter.

I am also sorry because I have been put in a position that leaves me open to be accused of hypocrisy -- I am the one that has been stressing dialogue with outside people, and here you are being treated with less than respect.

Please understand that this oversight on our part has been strictly a result of shoddiness in conducting our business, and that there was no insult intended.

Okeh. After squirming my way (hopefully) out of an uncomfortable position, I had better get down to responding to your queries: Yes, the Living Unit concept is functioning passably well at Springhill Institution -- No, it is not an attempt to simulate society. The simulation bit is where the

rhetoric of the Solicitor General's department comes in. Medium security institutions are medium security PRISONS, and to pretend that you are trying to remake a prison into anything other than a prison is to play games with words.

Communication and inter-personal relationships are fine ideals to strive for, but what happens when the quality of communication is of a nature that reinforces the truth that your jailors are in fact your jailors? What happens when the inter-personal relationships are based on the truth that the authority figure does in fact have the authority to keep you in a prison, and whose prime objective is just that?

There is no doubt that the Living Unit concept forces all of us to react to one another in more humane ways -- we find it more difficult to ignore the other person's humanity -- but to expect a prison to produce or allow for healthy human relationships is to expect love from hate, beauty from evil, freedom from chains, respect from disdain, peace from war, creativity from conformity, friendship from authority.

There is -- as you are obviously already aware -- only one way to assist people in becoming more social animals, and that is to put them where the social action is -- in the Community.

I started serving time -- in one form or another -- when I was nine years old, and one thing I know for sure after having served thousands of years behind walls is that a prison setting cannot provide a person with the opportunities for Living that he (or she) must have to become a healthy and well-rounded individual. How does a man learn to be a man to a woman where there are no women? How does a person learn to love where there is no love? How can gentleness become a quality of aspiration where force is the order of the day? How do people learn to interact socially when the only politics allowed are the politics of fear and hate? How do people learn to care for themselves when they are surrounded by disdain? How do you teach a young person to provide for himself when he is brought up in a system that is patriarchal?

You are right when you say that the C.P.S. is going at things from the wrong end -- but, there is hope: it is my guess that within five years you will see a strong shift towards the use of Community Residential Centres, and that you will see more and more of the younger "offenders" being diverted into these centres rather than to "closed environments." The C.R.C.'s, hopefully, will

put emphasis on getting the individual out into the Community thereby providing him the opportunity to grow within that Community rather than as a warehoused "inmate."

However, keeping in mind that we live in a society that will always have crime and "criminals" (because society will always feel a need to criminalize someone, even if only as a measuring rod for so-called socially acceptable behaviour), we would be kidding ourselves to think that prisons will become extinct. And if the Living Unit and its incumbent degree of freedom is to be what the C.P.S. has in mind for other institutions across the country, I would support it if only for the reason that it makes the oppression of our oppressors a little more bearable -- and does allow a little more room for discussion and creativity. I would like to see my fraternal broth-

ers in, say, Joyceville have the opportunity to live a little more humanly, and I do think the Living Unit will help bring that quality to their existence.

But, ask me to design you an ideal prison and I would have to say, "I can't do that; I am not a jailor."

It pleases me that you took the time to write and I trust I've been reasonably clear in my response. If you have any further queries, please feel free (encouraged) to fire away.

Wishing you happy times and may your efforts be fruitful and rewarding.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Eby
Bob Eby,
Editor.

MEN'S FURNISHINGS

by
**Mansour's
LTD.**



READY TO WEAR AND MADE TO MEASURE CLOTHING

27 CHURCH ST., AMHERST, N.S.

ph. 667-8577

EDITORIAL

BOB EBY

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING THAT GOOD THINGS ARE WORTH WAITING FOR; WELL, YOU'VE waited... now what?

Oh, could I sing you a sad song: I could sing to you about machine breakdowns and energy shortages (Yeh, whose got any energy in the summertime?); I could sing to you of a three-day pass that took me away from my hot little tripewriter; and a song depicting an editor that has two fulltime jobs, neither of which pays at union scale; or a song of soldiers with guns and battle-dress parading around outside the fence of our establishment -- dangerous men with guns; or maybe some blues about a Memorium Day that turned out to be a cover for trips to the beach with the kids and a case of beer, while Canada's Finest galloped up and down the ranges screaming, "We'll get our man! we'll get our man!" all the while surrounded by felons -- t'ousands and t'ousands of dem... maybe even five hun'ed; or a tune about lazy summer days lying in the sun might strike to your hearts. But, somehow, I have the feeling that you will not be affected by my sad tales of woe, nor by my songs with lyrics bent -- so, what we'll just have to do is trust that you understand that we try to get our issues out as best we can and as often as we can under the circumstances.

We believe this issue to be our best. Certainly the most work has gone into it in terms of man-hours and we would appreciate any comments you might have to make. We would also appreciate you getting your friends to send five dollars in for a 12 issue subscription (which, by the way, just barely covers the cost of materials and postage), and perhaps you could get into sending out a few gift subscriptions to your friends who don't know about us yet.

This issue is an important one. It is important for a number of good reasons: Firstly, the interviews with the Halifax Parole Officers is a first for any penal publication in the country and, I believe, strikes right to the core of issues that rarely ever get touched upon; and secondly, this issue contains a three-page rebuttal to those people that believe all communities are negative towards prisoners -- the rebuttal comes in the form of articles that were published in the Prince Albert Phoenix on the demonstration that took place in Prince Albert Penitentiary earlier this year. The significance of these articles is they were written by persons in the outside community and were in support of prisoners carrying out a peaceful demonstration.

We have also managed to come up with a new fiction writer: one John Ettinger whose series of short stories under the title of Makin' Out will be a continuing contribution and, if I know anything at all about good fiction, will be a series worth looking forward to.

Another new acquisition of the COMMUNICATOR is our spoof writer, Parahamster Donut, with his "woids of wisdom from within the Cosmetic Poyl." I don't pretend to know where he's coming from but I can guess as to where he's going to end up when the dude with the white cape catches up with him....

David Bloomfield has now got his feet wet with "Marijuana Madness" and I suspect we'll be seeing more of his writing when the little ladies start sending their dime bags in, trying to assuage the fire that burns hotly in his conspirator's chest.

The Poetry Section has picked up a couple of new writers and you are invited to send your own writings in for publishing, if they can meet the standard of those published this month. A difficult task but one you are invited to take on.

On top of all the assorted goodies that have been going down, CON-ACT Workshops are waiting for one more vote from the Ottawa arm of the National Parole Board that will put them on the streets to start working towards a tour of Canadian theatres and performing their own materials. Which means that this editor may be running loose in the streets before the next issue can come off the presses, but have no fear; myself and that bent poet friend of mine, Robbie Hebert, will continue to work for the COMMUNICATOR from the outside. Who knows, we might even find something interesting to write about!

CON-EMPLOYED

1888 BARRINGTON ST.
SUITE 307
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Sponsored by the John Howard Society
Of Nova Scotia

108 TOWNSEND ST.
P.O. BOX 384
SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

'WORKING TOGETHER WITH
THE MALE OFFENDER'

Feature/David Bloomfield

MARIJUANA MADNESS!

"...Police officials strongly opposed to marijuana bill..."

A number of recent newspaper clippings pertaining to the proposed Cannabis legislation now pending in Parliament have come to the attention of this writer. The bill, now tabled in the Senate, has just been approved and amended by the Senate's Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Carl Goldenberg (L-Quebec). In particular, an article appearing in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald of May 28th, headlined "Police officials strongly opposed to marijuana bill," by staff reporter Ted Larsen, has moved me to speak out in favor of the pending legislation.

For those readers who may not be familiar with the proposed legislation or, for that matter, the law as it now stands, I should perhaps first supply some background information:

"...The law is an ass!..."

The bill was introduced into the Senate last November by Health Minister Marc Lalonde, and would abolish prison sentences and penalize those convicted of possession of marijuana and hashish by fine only. At that time, Lalonde told reporters, "There is no doubt that as it stands, if I may be excused the expression, the law is an ass!" (Toronto Sun, Nov. 27) The bill transfers the cannabis "drugs" from the Narcotic Control Act to the Food and Drug Act, and further proposes a reduction in penalties for all offences found therein, including Trafficking and Importing.

A federal commission on non-medical use of drugs (Le Dain Commission) recommended in 1972 that possession of marijuana no longer be a crime. The Law Reform Commission of Canada, in recent hearings before the Senate committee, indicated they felt the same way (St. John Evening Times-Globe, May 28).

The bill also contained provisions for the prosecution of offenders by summary conviction in certain cases other than simple possession, in addition to prosecution by indictment. The senate committee has further amended the legislation to provide for an automatic pardon for first offenders given an absolute or conditional discharge after conviction for possession. Another change in the new legislation is the elimination of a minimum three-year penalty for importing and exporting, as was originally proposed, compared to the present day seven-year minimum now in effect. (Which sentence, I might add, this writer is now serving following a conspiracy to import conviction.)

Last year, in Canada alone, 27,202 persons were sentenced for cannabis offences -- 18,648 being fined, 2,284 getting absolute discharges, 3,186 conditional discharges, and 999 jail sentences, 905 of them under six months, and four of them two to three years. (Evening Times-Globe, May 28) Simple arithmetic shows that ninety persons sentenced last year are currently serving prison terms of four years or more, many of them seven to ten years. To me, these figures indicate marijuana is indeed big business, not only for the so-called Traffickers, but more so to the Lawyers, Judges, Prosecutors, Police, Jails, and Penitentiaries; and in fact, our entire criminal "justice" apparatus, which thought leads me back to the subject of police opposition to the marijuana legislation.

Perhaps the police outcry is based on valid points of argument, or perhaps they are voicing their opposition because of certain vested interests inherent in the present system of prosecuting marijuana offenders, that might be lost when and if the new laws take effect. As a veteran participant (three years) of the present setup, my opinions may be construed as biased, especially in light of the fact they're being expressed from behind prison walls. However, I leave it to the reader to reach his or her own conclusions, regardless of my personal interpretations concerning the following excerpted portions of the Chronicle-Herald article:

"...Why Canada?..."

"Moves to lighten sentences for possession of marijuana got no support from Nova Scotia police officials last night," read the opening paragraph. This appears to be a simple straight-forward opening to the Larsen piece, one which provokes no argument in and by itself. However, it does bring to my mind this question: why were only the police queried for their reaction to the bill, and why not a broader spectrum of professionals such as lawyers, judges, social workers, parole and probation officers, and even present and potential marijuana offenders, persons who also come into daily contact with the cannabis "problem"? Why is it only the police are turned to when a sensitive socio-political issue arises? Is it not the function of the police merely to enforce the existing laws, rather than engage themselves in interpreting proposed laws? Is it the editorial policy and usual practice of the Chronicle-Herald to extract reactions from only those sources which reflect their, as yet, unstated opinions? Why didn't they solicit comment from other concerned groups, such as the Nova Scotia Drug Dependency Commission, who I would think, at least from an academic perspective, might take a more enlightened view than the one reflected in the following statement:

"I see no reason why Canadian legislators should try to make Canada the first major country to legalize marijuana!" This statement was made by Joe Ross, none other than the president of the Police Association of Nova Scotia. In the first place, Parliament is not advocating total de-criminalization, nor partial for that matter, but a lessening of the existing penalties, allowing for much more discretion on the part of judges in administering sentences. Secondly, the article makes no mention of the reasoning behind that statement, other than, "... (it) opens up another loophole in the country's legal structure which will allow society to degenerate further than it already has." A word mongering remark if I've ever heard one, topped only by the following scare tactic of an utterance: "(while) taking into account the increase in violence across the country, he said, 'this is certainly not the time to relax marijuana laws!'"

This antiquated parallel drawn between marijuana and violence, contrary to conclusions made in every scientific and sociological study I've ever read on the effects of marijuana use, is a lame but dangerous attempt to stir up fears in a public now concerned once again with the capital punishment question. Officer Ross insinuates marijuana is a causal factor in the increase (undocumented) of violence, which if true, might be caused by a myriad of other factors, not the least of which would be the ever increasing population.

Mr. Ross said, "the subject would no doubt come up at the meeting of the Canadian Police Association in September." Mr. Ross, who is (also) vice-president of the Association, said, "(he) would be taking a closer look at the whole question of marijuana legislation between now and then." I suggest Mr. Ross take a much closer look, not only at the legislation itself, but also at his motives behind making comments confusing, rather than clarifying the issue.

He should make note of the statement made by Dartmouth Police Chief Roger Smith in the same article, "As chief of police, my job is to enforce the laws passed by the government, not to comment publicly on them." I commend Chief Smith for taking this obviously professional and ethical tack. "Halifax Police Chief, G.O. Robinson said, 'he would reserve comment on the legislation until he has seen it in detail.' However, the Canadian Association of Police Chiefs (of which he is vice-president) has expressed the view that marijuana laws should remain as they are under the Narcotics Control Act," said Larsen in his article.

"... Good luck to you son, I'm sorry..."

Do the police chiefs realize how foolish the cannabis laws appear to be, situated as they are within the Narcotics Control Act, when everybody and their grandmother knows marijuana is a non-narcotic. The police chiefs should take notice of Marc Lalonde's statement quoted earlier in this piece, "... the (current) law is an ass." What kind of respect for the law do they think the youth of this country will and do hold for the law in general, when the most widely used and abused Act of the Criminal Code (Narcotic Control) is a profound study in contradiction and hypocrisy? And what happens to the young Canadian who upon returning from European vacation, foolishly tries to sneak past Customs an ounce of hashish to smoke with his friends? I'll tell you what happens, that is if the offender can't make a "deal" with the Crown: if the letter of the law is to be followed, the judges at present have no other alternative but to impose the seven-year minimum and send the "criminal" to a Federal Penitentiary, where he'll be eligible for parole in no less than twenty-eight months; no suspended sentences allowed, no probation, just a seven year sentence and a "good luck to you son, I'm sorry I had to do this but my hands are tied." The proposed legislation would change this sad state of affairs.

Also quoted in the Chronicle-Herald article was R.C.M.P. Chief Superintendent, D.J. Wright. "Wright said he had heard talk that some form of legislation regarding marijuana possession was in the works, but added, 'The R.C.M.P. is mainly concerned with people trafficking in the drug. It is the suppliers and not the users of marijuana who are causing the real problem.'"

"...The real problem is the anti-marijuana laws themselves..."

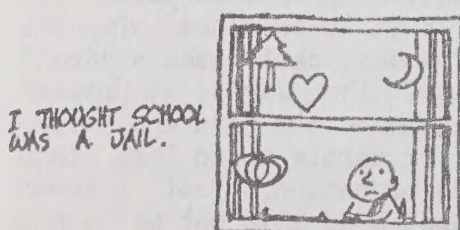
I think Mr. Wright should also take a closer look at the proposed bill, because he'll then notice that the changes written in are not only for possession, but for all offences including trafficking. As for Mr. Wright's second statement, I say loud and clear, BULLSHIT! I say the "real" problem is the anti-marijuana laws themselves, especially in their present form. Punishment should fit the crime, and though the law has gone through several subtle and favourable changes over the past few years, in most cases sentences far outweigh the severity of the "crimes." To classify marijuana and hashish use as crime in the first place is an attempt to legislate morality; an attempt that has little chance of success, as legal history points out, e.g. prostitution, gambling, alcohol, etc. The only victims of cannabis crimes are those unfortunate enough to be put through the grinding legal machinery, 27,000 of such cases last year in Canada and 400,000 in the States. (U.S. figures supplied by NORML, National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, Washington, D.C.)

Mr. Wright singles out Traffickers as the real problem. That would be like putting the blame for alcoholism on the shoulders of the distillers, distributors, and suppliers, rather than the heavy drinkers themselves. Not that I want to compare marijuana to alcohol as part of my arguments, there really is no comparison between the two: have you ever heard of anyone entering a hospital for Cirrhosis of the liver from smoking pot? Under the present laws, can one readily distinguish between the user and the trafficker? More often than not, users engage in some form of trafficking, however limited that may be. If a weekend smoker, in order to take his girl to a movie, sold his last bit of weed to an undercover police officer instead of smoking it himself, he would have been liable to a charge of Trafficking instead of a simple Possession under the present Act -- no doubt incurring a heavier sentence. The present law is rife with inequities. The proposed law is a step in the right direction. In my opinion it does not match the excellent recommendations as put forward by the LeDain Commission report in 1972, but I suspect political considerations had much to do with the form the new law takes. I quote again from the Evening Times-Globe:

"From a practical point of view there is no way we could get that law (removing simple possession as an offence) through in Canada today," Senator Joan Neiman, who is piloting the Senate bill, said in an interview later. "There is no way the public would accept it."

If there are to be further positive changes in the law sometime in the future, perhaps and hopefully, total de-criminalization, with distribution and sale under government control, it would appear public acceptance would be a political prerequisite. This of course would then entail a limited use of police enforcement. In fact, barely none; less than the number of police man-hours now spent in the regulation of the sale of alcoholic beverages. Astronomically fewer police would be needed than are now being employed for the enforcement of the existing cannabis laws. Could this be the reason the police, or at least, their bosses are speaking out against any moves toward de-criminalization -- JOB SECURITY?

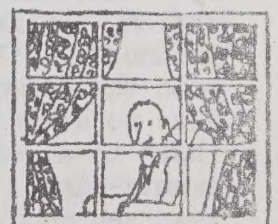
If the police and public would stop and think for a minute, they would see that the de-criminalization of cannabis would free untold numbers of law enforcement officers, who could then divert their attention to other neglected areas of crime, such as Corporate Crime, from which we are all victimized.



UNTIL I GOT A
JOB. BOY
WAS THAT A JAIL!



THEN I GOT
MARRIED
EVEN MORE
OF A JAIL!



~ HALIFAX PAROLE OFFICE ~

THE HALIFAX DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PAROLE SERVICE IS NOT A TRADITIONAL parole office: the people that work there as parole supervisors are not ordinary government employees, their thinking is not typical of parole officers as a group, nor are their statements what you would expect to hear coming from people who are Officers of the Court.

The office is made up of people educated in the Humanities and Arts but they put little stock in the traditional predictive methods used by social scientists to predict the future behaviour of their charges. They are professionals, nonetheless, and are stubborn, proud and principled people who are capable of making the kinds of heavy commitments to people in their care out on the Halifax streets.

Headed by "Streetman" Vince MacDonald (whose interview will appear in the next issue of the COMMUNICATOR) the parole officers show a deep interest in the experiences of release to the streets. They are all warm, fiercely individualistic people, whose concern for parolees is proven by the low number of revocations issued by their office --and is even more importantly revealed by the personal efforts they make to keep guys on the streets.

However, in their concern and interest for individuals and the idea of individuality, personal freedom of lifestyles and a commitment to keep men out of jails, they all seem to reveal a singular lack in seeking for alternatives to the power-without-responsibility position which is implicit in their being parole supervisors. They seem to feel that they would like to sustain friendships -- on a deep, personal level -- with the men and women on their caseloads, demanding an honesty and openness that their position of authority makes impossible on an equally shared basis. Though this "inmate" understands that in all relationships equality is seldom the object or even a good way of broadening communication and understanding between people, and realizes people should have some freedom to determine honestly what the level of the relationship will be and what it is to be based on, I wish these truths were more apparent to these people; you cannot hold power over people's lives, while diminishing the fact that prison is an important part of our lives and something we do not wish to experience and re-experience no matter how it may hurt your feelings -- and that these individuals, no matter how we may like and even respect them as people, still accept their position of being able, ready and authorized to send us back to prison.

The laws are unjust in many cases -- as they point out several times during the interviews; the bureaucracy is becoming increasingly complex and unwieldy -- even from within the system; their own lack of power, coupled with pressures outside to become more and more 'like policemen' -- a fact of life none of these people like or want; and their continued acceptance of the power, the growing crime and recidivist rates, the tougher restrictions that make being out on the street harder and lessen chances for individual success on one's own terms are the issues they do not seem to address, or often even to notice, or worse ----- seem to want to change.

The fifteen pages of interviews that follow are taken from eighty-nine pages of 14" X 8½" single-spaced, typed transcripts from taped conversations over a five-day period in the Halifax Parole Offices. This is the first time that a parole office in Canada has opened its doors to prisoner interviewers (and particularly at the invitation of the parole office itself) and this, to this writer, indicates the kind of openness and honesty that is incumbent there. A number of copies of this issue will be circulated to every parole office in Canada and we are hoping a dialogue will follow that will point up issues of importance to prisoners, parolees, parole officers, and anyone else interested in or connected with "corrections."

There is considerable material remaining from these interviews that couldn't be used because of the shortage of space and the expense of reprinting, but we believe we have captured, and been faithful to, the most significant parts of the discussions. Most of the COMMUNICATOR monologue has been dropped, except where needed to illuminate what was being discussed, in an effort to make the interviews more parole officer oriented. A serious effort was made to keep statements in context but I must admit... it was tempting!

UNTIL I GOT DRAFTED INTO
THE ARMY. THE WORST JAIL
YET!



UNTIL I GOT IN
TROUBLE AND WENT
TO JAIL--



AND LEARNED THAT JAIL IS
EVEN MORE OF A JAIL THAN
SCHOOL, A JOB, MARRIAGE,
OR THE ARMY.



SO FINALLY I KNOW
WHAT FREEDOM'S
ALL ABOUT:



THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE
WHICH JAIL.



JOHN UNROE

WITH IVAN PARACY

"TO ME, BUILDING A NEW STRUCTURE, BUILDING A NEW FENCE, A NEW SERIES OF BUILDINGS ARCHITECTURALLY, IS NO WAY A STEP INTO THE FUTURE -- IN FACT, THEY'VE STEPPED BACK TO BUILDING EMPIRES."

"THERE SHOULD BE A GREAT DEAL OF INDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION THAT IS IN THE BUSINESS OF RELEASING PEOPLE AND THE ORGANIZATION WHICH IS IN THE BUSINESS OF DETAINING PEOPLE... A PAROLE BECOMES A CARROT FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR INSIDE AN INSTITUTION, A VERY POWERFUL CARROT THAT CAN HAVE EXTREMELY SERIOUS OVERTONES TO INDIVIDUALS INSIDE THE BOX. IT CAN BE THE INSTRUMENT OF A TYRANT."

"IT IS AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT WHEN THE PENITENTIARY SERVICE PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED A REAL LENIENCY THAT IS MORE LIBERAL THAN THE PAROLE SERVICE. THAT TELLS YOU SOMETHING ABOUT HOW FAR BACKWARD THE PAROLE SERVICE HAS GONE."

"SOME PEOPLE JUST GO OUT AND BREAK THE LAW NORMALLY. IT DEPENDS ON THE SITUATION."

"THE POINT IS THAT THERE ARE NO RELIABLE INDICATORS. TAKE RE-ARREST FOR INSTANCE. WHAT THE HELL DO THOSE FIGURES SHOW YOU? NOTHING! THERE ARE NO INDICATORS OF SUCCESS OR FAILURE THAT HAVE ANY BEANS IN THEM. RE-ARREST RATES! THE GUY COULD BE RE-ARRESTED FOR A DRUNK CHARGE AND HE'D GOT OUT ON BANK ROBBERY, AND KEEPS BEING RE-ARRESTED ON DOPE CHARGES; HE'S A 'FAILURE' AND HE NEVER PULLS ANOTHER BANK JOB. I SAY HE'S A SUCCESS -- THE STATISTICS SAY HE'S A FAILURE."

JOHN UNROE sports a full beard, he is a small wiry-built man who reminds one most of somebody from another age and time -- a pioneer, or a farmer from the Prairies, or even a Cape Breton fisherman. His appearance is also reflected in the positions and roles he takes in the Halifax office -- a man of strong and definite ideas (after you get through the "eh, eh, eh, right... you know, eh!'s" of his speech) about how people should be treated -- not "handled" -- and also some unique ideas about the concepts of Justice, Fairness, and Equality. More than any of the other workers in the Halifax Parole Office, John has more familiarity from the inside with the Courts and Criminal Justice System, as well as the background and understanding of the physiological and sociological perspectives of what happens to men upon release from prison and what their experience inside the

prisons have been like.

"It comes from a very personal thing where you used to form a friendship, and then the Board or whoever in Ottawa would trust your judgement and would say: 'Yeah, you think you can work with him -- okay!' You would submit a report and that was it, you got him. When everybody in the whole country, in all of the prisons gets out on some form of supervision, it becomes forced marriage. It doesn't matter who walks in the door, whether he wants to be on supervision or not. They feel that Parole is such a good thing and that supervision 'works' so that now they do them all, baby! And the guy looks at you the first day and hates you. Now, I don't want to work with a guy who hates me. I have a tough enough time with guys that like me!"

"I see the Parole Service going from what was formerly quite a delightful organization to work with, where every one of us knew each other across Canada, to an unweildy bureaucracy where no one will trust what you say anymore unless you write it down on a piece of paper, and even then if you've said it and put it on a piece of paper, they still have doubts. I see that as a breakdown in Trust-Relationships, in what was formerly quite a responsive organization."

"What regionalization will do is put into the system -- which was already over bureaucratized -- another level of bureaucracy. Decision-making becomes more obscure."

"You can still take a personal interest in the people who come into the office, but it's a weakness in the sense that in the new-and-renovated Parole Service, our office doesn't have any **systems** so it loses 'efficiency points.' And to a highly bureaucratized system, inefficiency is tantamount to something that has to be... improved."

"It's hard to get to know 'as people' more than 15 people, if you look at normal friendship ties. That was the original operating concept -- it used to be that 15 was a fairly good caseload. If you have more than 15 people you have trouble in remembering names, who their wives are, who their children are, and you don't see them as people anymore. They become 'faces.'"

COMMUNICATOR: Were you to suspend someone and subsequently recommend revocation, what actions on the parolee would prompt you to do this; other than committing an indictable offence, which is an automatic forfeiture, of course?

UNROE: The way I look at it, and maybe this isn't generally felt -- the only justifiable reason for issuing a suspension warrant is to put a person in prison. In this country, theoretically, you shouldn't be putting people in prison unless they have committed a criminal offence. I don't like to constitute myself a judge, but in this situation you have to assume that you are in that position. It's simple if he's committed a criminal offence that I feel is in some way dangerous, and seriously dangerous to other people, then that is the basis for my suspensions. But it has to constitute something that would be defined as criminal.

"I see certain situations about suspensions that don't lead to Revocation. But quite seriously, I can't see the logic of a technical revocation -- a revocation on the basis of a technicality -- that doesn't amount to a criminal offence. I think that is an invasion of a person's freedom according to the spirit of the Bill of Rights, even though it happens to be encompassed in the powers of an administrative body -- i.e. the Parole Board. That's my own view, not the view of the Parole Board. This is the position I would like the Supreme Court to take a stand on.

"In this case, they aren't crimes except in the technical sense; because there are crimes which are not in any way dangerous to the community which may not justify a revocation, although it is technically a 'new' crime. In most cases, we have argued very successfully before the courts on several occasions, where the victim had been totally compensated and in fact no damage had been done to anyone -- although technically it was a crime that was indictable and could have been dealt with as an automatic forfeiture.

"I think the automatic forfeiture law is highly punitive. The Parole Act originated in 1958, was designed as an ameliorative type of legislation. It was premised in some ways after the prerogative of the Queen to dispense mercy, and then they write provisions that become more punitive than what the Courts do! I've seen this happen in operation many many times. For example, a fellow who is out and is out on say a 7 or 8 year parole -- a very long sentence. He was rammed into Parole. Then he gets into a fist fight in a bar. The fist fight would ordinarily have resulted in a 30 days sentence, if that. But under the operation of the automatic forfeiture rule, what happens is that he gets 30 days and because this was an indictable offence (Assault Causing Bodily Harm) he ends up with a sentence of 30 days plus a seven year remanent. Now, you say that has some justice, that it has some ameliorative effect? That's more hostile and more punitive than any magistrate in the land would be. And

that's the operation of the Parole Act now. This, to me, is ridiculous.

"I think the problem, if you look at it from a strict Parole point of view, is an extremely narrow focus which in the over-all system makes no sense."

KIDS; TRAINING SCHOOLS; THE COURTS

"Before they built Springhill, the judges were hesitant to send 16 year olds in for car theft to Dorchester because they knew Dorchester was a hole. Then the Federal Government built a nice, new place. It's got trades-training, it's got all of these nice little fancy things that they put in the brochure -- and they send the brochure around...where? To all of the judiciary, all the people who should know, right? The judiciary without looking at the place, buy the stuff that's in the brochure and then, and we've seen this right on sentences when at the point of sentencing a judge says: 'Well now, I would never think of sending this boy to Dorchester, but to Springhill to learn a trade... Fantastic! I'd better give him 2 years rather than 16 months or 18 months in a local place where there is nothing, where there is no trade. We'll give him an opportunity!' Which is their own myth. It's to do with deterrence, both specific deterrence against the individual and deterrence to set an example against the general population from committing similar offences. Where this is a minor offence they take the "rehabilitation" principle in the sentencing law and apply it. The guy ends up getting a longer sentence on the basis of "rehabilitation" than he would if the Courts had applied the deterrent sentence."

"The legislation is already there but it's not being used. The ideas of weekend sentencing, of intermittent sentencing, the ideas of absolute and conditional discharges, of a legal stop-over point which is a probation hostel -- all of these haven't even started to be thought of yet. We are fostering, instead, an empire being built in the form of the regional jail system."

"To use an old argument -- this is an amazing society that is so rich that it can pay men -- just ordinary people -- to go around talking with people, just being friendly. I don't feel like a big old dog that all the parole officers are supposed to be; I don't even feel like a watchdog of the State. Maybe I should. I don't want to be a parole officer in the classic sense, I don't have the aspiration; but I quite enjoy what I do."

"There should certainly be a right to know what is in a man's file, on behalf of the fellow who "owns" it, and he should be able to object to all the opin-

ionated views that are in most files, and lots of them have opinions that show the spirit of the various writers over 10 or 15 years -- some of those spirits are good spirits in that file and some of those spirits are highly vindictive spirits; and they're all talking in that file over the years. Certainly, it tells you more about the people who wrote the reports than it tells you about who they're purported to be written about. You must have the right to dispell those myths."

"A Parole hearing is not a court; it's an administrative tribunal, and the administrative tribunal a man appears before has no rules with respect to a fair hearing. The point is that the rules of justice don't in any way apply to the Parole Board, and there's no appeal from their decision, either. It is written right into the Parole Act, so when you say 'Is it legal?' of course it's legal! They can explore things in a Parole Board hearing that a Law Court could never explore: your sex life as an infant; and the legality is perfect.

There's no Rule of Relevance. In a Court of Law it might be held irrelevant, but everything is relevant in a parole hearing. Everything is held to be admissable because the rules don't apply. It would be an improvement if there was a genuine appeal procedure built into the Parole hearings.

"But when you constitute the Parole Board as a Court, with a quasi-judicial function, you end up legalizing the whole system and you start applying egalitarian principles. Now I don't know whether egalitarian principles are worth the cutting down of paroles in this country. Legalizing the parole hearing is a choice between what form you want your oppression to take. The Parole Board has total power at this point and from the perspective of the individual appearing before the Board with no appeal, it's a tyrant. But, if you introduce civil liberties into the parole hearing and you constitute it something like a Court of Law, I don't know...from my experience with the Courts, it's equally as oppressive and I'm not sure which tyrant you want to have in power."

TOM SHARPE

WITH BOB EBY

COMMUNICATOR: What do you think of Mandatory Supervision?

TOM: I think the concept of Mandatory Supervision is pretty vague. In theory, I don't believe we should have Mandatory Supervision.

It is my understanding that a person gets so much time back for conducting himself in a proper manner in an institution, and that's kind of like a reward and punishment process, and what the penitentiary offers you for keeping yourself straight while on the inside -- you earn that time off your sentence by behaving yourself. Now, from my point of view, I ask how come the guy is out on Mandatory? How come he didn't get a parole? You know, where's his motivation, because I don't think paroles are that hard to get, and how come he didn't get one? There seems to be an awful lot of people on regular parole.

Mandatory Supervision should be abolished. When a man serves his time, he should be free.

COMMUNICATOR: The Ouimet Commission in 1968 stated that almost 40% of the people who are serving life under the Habitual Criminal Act are there for straightforward property crimes. Since the issue here is that the prisoner is an habitual property thief, what amount of property do you consider it just to send a man to prison for life for stealing?

TOM: I am looking at it from my background, which is a mental health one, and I don't know if I would be prepared to put a value on how much a person steals. I think what I would consider would be a complete inventory of where the guy's coming from. It is my firm conviction that there are some people that belong in what I call "bird sanctuaries" who need to be in a situation where they have a certain amount of supervision; be that in an institution because there's no other place to handle them, or be that in a Farm Annex or Half-Way House type situation. There are some types of people who I consider to be inadequate personalities and its got nothing to do with the fact that they've got five or ten convictions for a hundred thousand dollars or whatever; it is more a case of certain personalities just not having it, or what it takes to live properly in free society.

COMMUNICATOR: One of the things that is happening with the Law Reform Commission is that they are coming out with statements saying that it is about time that we took a new look at the ideology of property, and instead of locking people up for straightforward property crimes we should be concerning ourselves more with the person who is in fact dangerous to people's physical being in terms of actual physical violence. It is also being said that fifteen or twenty percent of the people in penitentiaries

have to be there because of their propensity for physical violence but that the vast majority of the prisoners are there because they violated property laws, and I am wondering if you feel this is a proper kind of situation to have.

TOM: Do you want my gut reaction on that?

COMMUNICATOR: Exactly.

TOM: A gut reaction from me is, because I am dealing with people who tend to be classed as deviant of one kind or another, I am always kind of dealing with the fear of being accosted by someone some night who decides that there is no way anyone is going to find out that it is him that broke into, say, my home, and that he's going to attack me personally. If somebody broke into my house my reaction would be to want to get him out of my sight, you know, I don't want to see him again, because he's going to risk endangering me -- and me being the coward (laughs) that I am, I don't want to be confronted.

But, you know, you get different types of crime: for instance, I'm involved with a guy right now who is out on Mandatory and has a lifetime of crime behind him. He recently was summonsed to court because he had stolen a pair of scissors from an office, which could have meant that because it was an indictable offense his Mandatory Supervision would have been forfeited. Now, the case was thrown out of court but if he had been convicted we were prepared to go for a re-parole, which gives you some indication of the fact that property is not a very serious consideration in this office.

COMMUNICATOR: Do you like your job?

TOM: Yes, very much. It's completely different from anything I've done in social work before. I've worked with the Children's Aid, the Halifax School for the Blind, Family Court, the Nova Scotia Hospital, and at the Child Guidance Clinic, and had never had any experience with "corrections" and I thought I'd like to find out what it was like -- and I like it.

COMMUNICATOR: Should the system be using ex-offenders to work with people on parole, probation, and that sort of thing?

TOM: I don't know exactly where the non-professional fits into the system. In terms of corrections I couldn't even make a comment. In terms of Child Welfare and that kind of thing, I don't feel they have a very appropriate place.

COMMUNICATOR: Some people say that a guy who has been on the inside will have a closer rapport with the guys, and especially if he has had the professional training. What would you say to that kind of situation?

TOM: That argument just doesn't hold any water at all. It is like saying that because I had a kidney removed then I am prepared to deal with kidney infections, or because I ended up in court on a civil action because my fence was on another guy's property, I'm prepared to deal with all kinds of law suits. I mean, let's face it, you can spend six years in a penitentiary and be a prick, and every other guy thinks you're a prick, and you've

Serving
Cumberland
County

For Over
Three
Decades

JAMES GOGAN WHOLESALE LTD.

Peanuts
Chocolate
Bars

SPRINGHILL

Gum
Potato
Chips
Candy
Soft
Drinks

got nothing more going for you than when you came in -- so it doesn't hold any water.

COMMUNICATOR: Do you believe that Canada's parole system is working in terms of what its stated aims are?

TOM: My philosophy tends to be a person has to take responsibility for himself, so I tend to judge cases on an individual plane, and I get kind of uncomfortable with the idea that (and it's starting to infiltrate our system) that parole is a right. You know, I think parole is still a privilege. I think it's a privilege to be on the street...some days! (laughing)

COMMUNICATOR: Do you believe that incarceration is a solution to criminality?

TOM: No, because if you sit a guy in a room who's got a problem when he's twenty years of age and hasn't worked it out, he can sit there for twenty more and if you don't give him the means to deal with that, whatever it is that's inside him, when he comes out he's still going to have the problem.

COMMUNICATOR: So what you are saying is that people who have difficulty conducting themselves in socially acceptable ways are only going to learn how to if they are around other people who are handling themselves in acceptable manners.

TOM: I say that a guy shouldn't serve time in a gargantuan, archaic kind of institution, because it is very difficult all the time that you're growing up to combat peer group pressure; and then when you are in an institution with four or five hundred other fellows who are able to exert pressure on you, and they are not motivated to supporting an individual who is concerning himself with self-improvement, it works against the guys who are.

For example; if a guy's trying to improve himself, I have to question how he's going to with all that pressure on him to do otherwise. I can only guess at it but I do have reservations about a guy who gets sent to Springhill and wants to learn, say, auto body repair, and there are a lot of guys sitting around who don't care about learning anything. He's trying to work on a car and, the next thing you know, somebody gives him a kick in the ass and says, "Come on, you're screwing up the whole day with work!"

So, I would like to see smaller places for people, you know, like a house situation where they've got more personal contact and the pressures tend to be more equal in terms of performing one act or another -- where a fellow has more of a choice, and I think that's important. Hell, I think there's a lot

of guys who don't have any choice inside an institution where you've got four or five hundred other guys telling you what to do. You've got to react to the other prisoners in a certain way, and you've got to react to the staff in another, so you don't really have a choice.

COMMUNICATOR: Providing a person's not breaking the law but may be violating the technical requirements of parole, how do you as a parole officer justify the use of incarceration?

TOM: Well, I think that in this office people are allowed as much freedom as ordinary people on the street as far as their lifestyle goes. There is a lot of leeway given out of this office.

COMMUNICATOR: Your major concern then is that as long as a person's not breaking the law he's doing alright?

TOM: Well, okeh. One case that required a lot of consideration was a recent revocation; it involved a guy coming out who'd had a poor background, not in terms of violence but he's a socially inadequate guy -- any kind of pressure and he'd break down and break the law. The reason he got his parole was an attempt to reunite him with his wife. His wife was much more experienced in terms of playing head games, and she had been involved with several men and was still playing around but this guy couldn't see what was going on until he had been confronted with it by his wife.

My idea was, okeh, even though your parole had been based on the idea of your getting back with your wife, to Hell with that, we would go ahead with the parole and try to get you to make it on your own because it would be now or later that you'll have to do that sort of thing anyway. But every time he went out to see her she would blow his mind for him and he'd get drinking and get into trouble. The last time it happened he got into a fight with his father-in-law and gave him six stitches and cut him up pretty badly. The police picked him up and were going to charge him.

The opinion of this office (and it was initially suggested by me) was that we would get him off the streets for a couple of months until he could deal with the problem. We thought it was better to give him some time to work it out in his mind and then he could come out and face the realities of his situation. Now, he may get angry when he goes back but this is not a popularity kind of a contest kind of thing and that's one of the things we have to face.

One of the other things I would like to add is I have personally found that one of my best sources of how to handle situations may come from another parolee. If I feel I can justify a certain action to two or three parolees then there's got to be some fairness to it.

COMMUNICATOR: An interesting thing though, there have been studies done where researchers have tested prisoners for the level of their authoritarian tendencies, and it has come up that the average prisoner is every bit as authoritarian as the custody types that are keeping them in prison. I find it interesting that people who are faced with the reactionary attitudes of the authoritarian type have no better understanding of where that is at than the person who is living in a relatively free situation out here. You'd think the prisoners would be more sensitive to that kind of thing. Like, who comes down on a prisoner more than some of the other prisoners, especially in a maximum security institution.

Do you think the present practice of interviewing people in the community without getting prior permission from the prisoner is a proper procedure?

TOM: Yeh, I think it is a proper procedure....

I guess one of the things that I

would like to see done is that guys inside are reassured that their files are private and confidential.

COMMUNICATOR: Is there anything you would like to add before we close?

TOM: Yeh, I think this interview has been very interesting. My own self-conception is that I am a person who doesn't convey too much of myself initially to people, so I have had a certain amount of anxiety throughout this, and I hope people will take that into consideration.

COMMUNICATOR: Well, the tone of things means a lot -- sometimes more than we mean it to mean, and especially with a guy like me; you know, that sardonic sense of humour and all that, but I think there is a tone coming through here that is going to work very well for its intended purposes.

TOM: One of the things I find interesting since I got into this field is the amount of potential of some of the people I've come into contact with.

DAVE MOORE

WITH I.P.

DAVE MOORE needs very little introduction. He is one of the most dynamic personalities in the Halifax Parole Office, and he expresses himself best through his own words and thoughts:

"I always find it difficult to talk about myself.... I did the normal 1960's thing: Dalhousie University, majored in Philosophy, and when I was released from that institution I walked the streets for a job. Eventually, almost by chance, I walked into the Social Welfare Office where they hired me almost on the spot for Juvenile Probation. At the time I worked at the Family Court in Cape Breton, the Parole Board was probably the most progressive correctional agency in terms of staffing and innovative projects, so I decided if I was going to stay in the correction's field, I should try to get with an agency like the Parole Board. I kept applying and kept being rejected until they got tired of seeing me and eventually hired me for the Halifax office. The fact that I knew Vince MacDonald [the District Representative] and John Unroe didn't do me any harm...."

"I see the traditional role of the parole officer as a street-worker. That role has changed drastically in the last 3 or 4 years. There isn't as much street orientation as there was. Parole officers are doing more and more indirect supervision -- getting all these special

projects, and monitoring community activities. The role has changed. I feel the pressure of the change because I'm used to working in the traditional way.

"There is a certain level at which you can relate to somebody as a man and not as a parole officer. There are ways of relating that go above those roles, mainly on an intuition level. In the eyes of many of the men we work with, they fail to see us as people. Many inmates say about us that we don't see them as people. Sometimes it's a failing on the inmate's and parolee's part to see the parole officer as a person rather than just as a parole officer, and I resent it when somebody looks at me that way, because I don't feel that: above all, I'm a person before I'm a parole officer.

"Sometimes [when you're talking to us] you seem to be looking for very pat answers to questions -- like how often do you suspend paroles? how often do you revoke? and all this sort of thing. You can't appreciate the traumas people go through, the work that goes into particular people, the personal investments. It's not a matter of how often you suspend, how often do you revoke -- it's a personal commitment to somebody, and it makes a helluva difference. I know myself that it makes a difference, you know: 'honor' and 'commitment' to someone."

ALTERNATIVES AND THE COMMUNITY

"I've been doing this job for eight years, and that's equivalent to guys doing time for eight years. We have a lot of inmates who really believe -- who really believe in the criminal justice system and 'rehabilitation' -- and they're more sold on it than I am! They believe the whole thing works and it's an awful letdown when you get on the street and it's a real downer; it doesn't work anymore when you get there. I find it really kind of disgusting that inmates with a level of intelligence buy the shit that the system is shaped in. They've got to be really stupid people, they're Rehabilitation Chauvinists!"

"When a man comes out on parole and is under my supervision, I think a desire to do something for himself, not to go back to the penitentiary, is what I'm looking for. I really like to have somebody who has some talents so that we can utilize his talents, but motivation is the main criteria. As long as a man doesn't want to go back and he's motivated to do something, then we can usually find something for him to do. We can utilize resources for any field he wants to go into, that he's capable of doing.

"We've developed a lot of things over the past 3 years. We still don't have alternatives that suit every person we have, and we've talked on several occasions about the possibilities of developing resources in the purely academic field, vocational fields, therapy and this sort of thing so that we could really tailor-make an individualized plan for each person who came out. For instance, group paroles; we could form a Therapeutic Community within the institution and then bring this whole community out to the street in an intensified work-group and specialized setting.

"I go along with the current community corrections approach. It would divert a lot of people from Federal penitentiaries and it would get people that are in Federal penitentiaries back into the community. I think you could turn the experience of incarceration into a really beneficial sort of thing. Having an individual in his own community with his family, the people he knows offering him support. I know that we would have a lot of resistance from the community but I see this as the only way to go at the present time. You can't build bigger and bigger institutions; they don't work. And I'm sure that's true if only by referring to the recidivist rate.

"The community will also be used as Probation hostels. Although I have very little sympathy with probation officers and their administrators who burden them with excessive case-loads, I will say that they have had very few resources with which to work. We could use the county jails a lot more, but we have to get rid of the myth that the judges seem to believe in -- that a person learns a

trade in a penitentiary. The whole community approach would greatly relieve this problem of sentencing directly to the Federal pens."

"Assessment for Parole is a difficult thing at any point in a person's sentence, and I'm not sure what criteria you could use that would be objective and universal. I know that in some cases one day in jail would be plenty for some people, but how do you designate who those people are, I'm not sure. The only way I do it is on the basis of intuition.

"The Law Reform Commission presently has a paper out on compensation and fines as an alternative method of sanctioning the offender, and I see this as an alternative to incarceration; and perhaps, though I'm not aware of any studies as to the success of these kinds of diversion programs, it would perhaps be more beneficial to the offender in the long range. It would bring home to him the importance to the community of the value that is placed on property. In this way, if you were brought face-to-face with the victim, I think it could be a real benefit."

PAROLE, POLICE AND THE COURTS

"Sometimes a man's behaviour is determined by the security setting in which he finds himself. We're not always convinced that a man who has been classified previously as maximum is in actuality a maximum-security risk. Perhaps, if you put him in a medium-security setting, he becomes a medium-security inmate in terms of behaviour in the institution.

"When I do a community assessment and there is a negative police reaction to the proposed Leave or Parole, I state the police opinion; I simply state it. Then it is up to the people who make the decision with regard to Parole how they take it and how much credibility and importance they give to it.

"There has obviously been a lot of trouble between parole officials and the police. The police feel police-reporting is very important, but it's been my impression that those in the field -- and I'm talking about Parole Service in the field -- don't really consider it to be as important as the police think it is."

"A lot of the conditions against parolees are interpreted. None of the conditions say "DO NOT -- do not do this or do not do that" -- they say: talk to your parole officer first. The Parole Board policy that we of course follow is that it is up to the Courts to decide. The fact that a person has been charged with an offence doesn't mean that he's guilty of the offence -- it means he's been charged. And so we really have no

grounds for suspending his parole. We may have grounds for suspending the parole outside of the fact that he was charged for an offence. There may be other circumstances. For instance, he may have left the area without prior permission or maybe he was violating a special condition of some nature, but it wouldn't be solely because he was charged with an offence. It depends on the individual situations.

"You use the term 'revoke' loosely. Sometimes you use it so loosely that I think you mean 'suspend' a parole, because I can suspend a man's parole; but only the [National Parole] Board can revoke a parole.

"I think that anytime I've ever recommended revocation, it's been a last resort deal. We've had to have exhausted every community resource. There is absolutely no motivation on the person's part to become involved in any sort of treatment alternatives, or the treatment alternatives are not available; his attitude has been really bad towards parole -- he's neglected to report, he hasn't done the rudimentary things -- and it's just a total write-off. I'm sure that you recognize that those types of parolees exist. There is just absolutely no response, and most likely there is a violent characteristic to the offence. There's a very good likelihood of the person becoming involved in some sort of violent situation."

FRUSTRATIONS

When I started in the prisons, there were fifty parole officers, at the most across Canada [this was eight years ago] and we knew every one of them. And we knew the Case Preparation people and the Case Supervision people in Ottawa. We had direct contact with all of those people.

"When Mandatory Supervision was first initiated, we all shuddered in our shoes because we felt that these guys were not coming here voluntarily, and there was going to be a lot of resistance to any efforts to do anything for them; and just a lot of generalized hostility towards us because they didn't ask for us. However, we found that after a while, we were getting a better sort of response from many Mandatory parolees than we were from the Regulars. We chalk this up to the fact that a lot of the guys who were sort of kicked out of institutions on Mandatory were operating on stereotypes

which they had of parole officers -- which were completely inaccurate. When they came into the office and the parole officers didn't conform to their inaccurate stereotypes, they became very surprised and receptive to the whole thing. For instance, if you offered a man a coffee, this was completely out of the inaccurate stereotype he had, and he became immediately responsive.

"I think we really have capabilities after having dealt with so many people after such a long time. I think we are very experienced people in parole. It's not always the case that my only contact with an inmate is indirectly through other people or agencies; having had him on parole before, or having corresponded with him directly. I may have been in contact with the family in the community while he's been incarcerated."

"All the time you're doing these interviews, going around the office, it's all inmate-oriented, all parolee oriented. What happens to me? to us? We're people too! What happens to us as a result of Mandatory Supervision or the 'legalities' of the system? to a man who sits in an office with somebody who hates him all the time?

"What it does to you as a person -- be it a parole officer, a conscientious parole officer -- and you're trying to be a real person, there are times it can really fuck you up. You're really trying to do the best you can, but the roles that a lot of cons knock onto you really screw you up. You can get ripped up in a con game that you don't really want to be a participant in, and you can suffer a lot of guilt. You really start to get hardened. You don't like yourself and you don't like the guys you're working with. And you know, like with the 17 year old car-thieves, I don't like to work with them because they rip me off, they exploit me -- and I don't like that. I don't like to fool around with guys who are going to lay little petty con-games on me. It exploits me as a person. I have to put out so much and I come to the point where I hate to put out that much to somebody who is only trying to rip me off. I think a lot of the guys who work in the office are the same way. They rationalize in certain ways, saying 'This is my caseload and that's all there is to it,' but I don't like it, I don't think I like it a God-damned bit!"

RON BROOKS

WITH B.E.

"This is really interesting work and not boring at all, and I guess I'm a person who likes some excitement.

"I was a Manpower Counsellor before I

got into this work. I started out in college with the idea of being a minister and then switched, just before I was supposed to go into Divinity College, to the other social worker sort of thing. I

wanted to be a social worker because my reasons in the beginning about becoming a minister got questioned. I then went into the Manpower thing and I wasn't happy with that at all. I first got involved in this kind of work through the Marathons at Springhill Institution five or six years ago, and began to appreciate the people I met on the inside in a completely different way than I had before. You know, as Joe Citizen we don't give much thought to prisoners serving time, other than the fact that we are afraid of them. You know, they're cons and you just throw them in jail.

"I began to appreciate the other aspects of the guys inside and I thought that I would like to work with them, because I figured I had something to offer.

"Of course, I've changed a lot of my thinking since then; one of the things I had the hardest thing with was the authority thing, like I didn't want the authority and I didn't want to be seen as an authority figure. But after a while I realized that I was an authority figure and I had to learn to live with it. And if I can live with it chances are the guy is going to accept it a lot better, especially if I know what I'm going to do with it and he has an idea that I know what I'm going to do with it. It is still difficult to deal with that type of thing."

COMMUNICATOR: Is it possible for a parole officer and a parolee to be friends in the true sense of the word?

RON: Yeh, I think it is.

COMMUNICATOR: Does the authority thing not get in the way?

RON: I guess it depends on what you mean by a real friendship. The friendship always has that one thing; the parole officer is the authority figure and can act upon that authority, but I think you can have a good friendship if there's trust. Like, if the parolee can trust the parole officer and vice versa, I think there can be friendship -- and not to trust the parole officer not to send him back but to do what he honestly feels is right, and trust that the parole officer has got it together enough to know where he stands.

COMMUNICATOR: Are you saying that he needs to trust the parole officer to do what is best for the parolee?

RON: Even though he might not like it at the time.

COMMUNICATOR: If you had a son would you recommend that he get into this kind of work?

RON: Umm... Yeh, if he knew what he was getting into for -- if he had a real

interest in this kind of work.

COMMUNICATOR: In view of the fact that all criminal law in Canada is Federal law, do you think it is fair that Federal prisoners are subjected to Mandatory Supervision when Provincial prisoners are not?

RON: No, I guess I couldn't say that it's fair. I question whether Mandatory Supervision is fair at all for anybody.

It is not something that the prisoners themselves have any choice in. It is something that the parole officers have a lot of questions about too, myself included. When Mandatory first came in, I think we were all against it -- parole officers and certainly prisoners; but I think we've found something that is kind of interesting because we've found that some people that are released on Mandatory Supervision are a hellava lot better than a lot of the people we were paroling, so I think it makes you want to ask the question "Are we missing a lot of people that should have been released on regular parole?"

COMMUNICATOR: In terms of accountability to you as a parole officer, what difference is there between a person on Mandatory Supervision and a parolee on regular parole?

RON: There is not supposed to be any difference. But, I think in the way I deal with a person whose on Mandatory, I probably am a little less concerned with the rules sort of thing. I think I would let a little more go by knowing that the guy didn't want the Mandatory Supervision in the first place, and I think that maybe the way I look at it is that maybe the guy can use a hand in a few things, maybe I can help out from time to time, and establish some kind of rapport. I don't look upon it as a thing that "Look, you're on Mandatory Supervision and you've got to do this and that." I don't even look at regular parole in that way but even less so with Mandatory Supervision.

COMMUNICATOR: Would I be accurate in saying that you don't feel that there is any kind of contract between the person on Mandatory Supervision and the Parole Board or Service?

RON: Well, no. There's no contract but the guy is still subject to the same rules and the same regulations as set down by the Parole Board. On the other hand, you've got the same authority in suspending, limiting, and whatever as you do with a guy on regular parole.

COMMUNICATOR: What do you think of the idea of giving a person a life sentence, such as under the Habitual Offender's Act, for stealing property?

RON: I don't agree with a life sentence for property offences. I can't see anyone spending a long time in a penitentiary for anything other than physical or violent crimes, such as murder or robbery with violence, armed robbery, and that sort of thing.

COMMUNICATOR: What do you think about the movement that seems to be taking place, putting emphasis on Community kinds of diversion and sanctions?

RON: Well, obviously the penitentiary sort of thing is not working. Locking a guy up for "X" number of years, subjecting him to that kind of system, just doesn't work. The problems do not exist in the penitentiary for the guy, they exist on the street and unless you help him on the street he's not going to make the adjustments he needs.

A community oriented program, whether its Community Residential Centres or Community Correctional Centres like the Carleton Centre, provides more in assisting a person make the adjustment than locking him away into another world and expecting him to come out, and with a little bit of help from his friends sort of thing, make it.

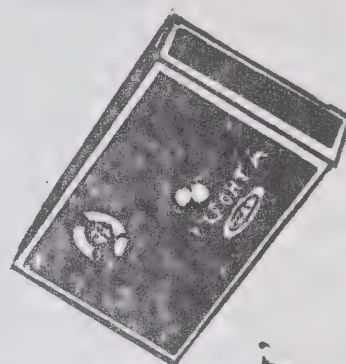
COMMUNICATOR: You're involved in parole work and at the Half-Way House; what kinds of things do guys mostly need? Is it jobs, is it any other single variable?

RON: I think he needs, first of all, some understanding from a representative from the society he is going to be living in. Most guys when they come out of the pen have a hard time re-orienting themselves. There are certain feelings associated with the fact that they've been in the penitentiary: difficulties in doing the sort of normal everyday kinds of things that people on the outside take for granted; getting into frustrating kinds of circumstances that they don't know how to handle at the time. They need some help getting through these kinds of things.

There's a lot more to life than just a job. A job is helpful and I think that if a guy is out of work for too long a time then it could be harmful for him if he hasn't got his shit together. Even if he has got it together he starts feeling pretty low not having something to do with his time and he can slip into problematical kinds of situations.

Contacts with social agencies are needed by the guy just getting out, and he needs help in coping with the kinds of agencies we all have to deal with today. Some people when they come out of the pen know how to cope with these kinds of things but there are an awful lot that don't know how to make the contacts and don't know how to cope with what they're dealing with. Maybe I can manipulate a social agency in a legal sort of way and get what I want, but Joe Blow just coming out of the pen and not knowing how to gets frustrated and says, "Screw the System!"

There are many psychological disadvantages that a guy has to deal with: like getting it on with a chick; trying to get a job and being afraid that your employer will find out and reject you because you are a so-called "con"; being afraid that people in general will reject you for the same reason. There are so many variables that account for the kinds of problems guys have when they come out, and that where I see places like the Carleton



EXPORT TOBACCO



Ninety per-cent of the Springhill Prisoners smoke 'EXPORT'.

Centre and C.R.C.'s --community involvement, as being most helpful for guys. I've seen guys come down to the Carleton Centre and it is amazing the changes they go through.

COMMUNICATOR: You know, from my viewpoint, the System is getting more insidious as time goes by; its getting pretty total, and this is pointed up in the fact that we are moving into the community more and more. I can see that where maybe in ten or fifteen years time, the Solicitor General's department will have this mammoth monster all over the country that will be scooping up kids just as soon as they show any "rebel" in them at all. It seems that wherever the State takes too much control over the upbringing of children and the kinds of things that define people for what they are, we always are in danger of ending up with a 1984 society that allows for no deviation from the norm and, hence, no room for social change, short of revolution.

RON: I would tend to support more the kinds of private involvements that are starting to be used than I do the things that the Penitentiary and Parole Services run. I would support the C.P.S. and N.P.S. financing those kinds of things but the private groups should be allowed to do their own thing, because, let's face it, it's the community that sanctions the guy for what he's done, and if the community feels comfortable enough in dealing with the situation in a

certain way, then let's not interfere with them.

COMMUNICATOR: One of the things that Edgar Z. Friedenberg said in one of the articles he gave us to publish is that Canadian society will spend thousands of dollars to investigate a hundred dollar Welfare fraud, and even more to keep a prisoner in prison for having stolen a few hundred dollars, when it would make more sense to give the guy some money so that he could fix his own life. What would you say to that?

RON: Yeh, and they might not have ended up in the penitentiary. Another thing worth thinking about is when you are talking about "carrots"; why not give a fellow a certain amount of money when he completes his parole? You know, a thousand dollars... five thousand dollars!

COMMUNICATOR: Dave Moore says that Ottawa would like to forget that it has an office in Halifax; would you have any comment on that?

RON: (Long pause and a chuckle) You could probably include the whole Maritime provinces in that! (Laughing)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Brooks spoke at length on the Carleton Centre in Halifax but space hassles kept us from using the material in this issue. We'll use it, and more, in a future issue when we cover the Carleton Centre.

LORRAINE CASEY

WITH B.E.

"I'M HERE TO HELP A GUY IF HE NEEDS help, and to do anything I can, but with anyone on a regular parole, the responsibility to keep that parole is on them -- not with me. The responsibility is on his shoulders and he's the one who will have to face the consequences if he violates the conditions, not me."

LORRAINE CASEY is the only woman Parole Officer with the Halifax Office. She has a Bachelor's Degree in the Arts, having done minors in psychology, sociology, and economics. After graduating, she came to Halifax to work with the Nova Scotia Provincial government to do Social Assistance work with the Welfare Department. After six months with the Welfare Office, she became frustrated with the work and her low status, and applied for a job with Juvenile Probation. She worked with Probation for six years until a position opened up with the Halifax National Parole Service District Office as a Parole Supervisor. Recalling her six years with the Probation Service, Lorraine says:

"I have a tendency to say what I think and it isn't always appreciated. They were getting more stereotyped and rigid. When I first went to work there you could 'do your own thing,' handle your own cases the way you wanted, and sometimes I had one-hundred and twenty-five girls. That's a lot of people and, let's face it, you're not doing anybody much service or much justice either. But you tried to give as much as you could... the others kind of got pushed aside. After a while, paper work became more important to the administration. The pressures to conform were what turned me off more than anything; and I knew this position [with Halifax Parole] was open...."

"I don't like to see anybody go back to prison but the parolee is the one who has the responsibility to see that this doesn't happen. That's the one thing I stress more with guys who are on regular parole: 'Look, it is your responsibility to keep the conditions of the parole.'"

"I don't measure my success in terms of how many guys make it and how many don't. I have learned, and it's taken me years, that it's impossible to really determine what effect you are having on an individual. Perhaps being in Corrections as long as I have puts me in a little better position than, say, a lot of people. I still have some contact with girls I dealt with 8 or 9 years ago, and now they'll say to me when I meet them on the street: 'Come on, let's have a coffee,' and then they'll say: 'I don't know why I'm sitting here with you because I hated you so much!'"

"When one of my girls has a new baby they'll call me up, or when they're getting married they'll call me to ask me to come to their wedding. Yet I knew -- and I used to worry about it then, way back when I was the so-called authority figure kind of thing -- they couldn't stand me because I was the authority. So you learn not to measure."

"The effects of what I'm doing right now with someone may not register for, maybe, ten years. I can see where I'm getting through to some extent, but they don't see that because they're not capable of sitting down and analysing. So, it's just the same as the effect I've had on girls ten years ago. I couldn't measure with them and I don't think I can measure the effect I'm having on the guys I work with right now. The only way you ever have an idea is, occasionally, you'll get a guy who will tell you what he thinks -- but that's not often. When someone tells me what they're thinking, that's giving me a part of them. Guys don't want to do that, they're afraid of it. I've had some pretty big guys come in here and break right down, and sometimes it's never mentioned again. But we both know that we've been through it. There is a bond there, but it's an unspoken kind of thing."

"I think we should make every effort to keep a guy out of prisons, but I think it reaches a point where you say: 'Wait a minute!' as to how far you can go. Maybe a few more lessons in empathy help.... It's pretty hard to do justice to an inmate if there are problems within offices and they aren't all as harmonious as this one is."

LORRAINE, WHO IS A PERT REDHEAD WITH LARGE SOFT EYES, AND I DISCUSSED THE IDEA OF "DUES-PAYING," THE FACT THAT ALL OF US HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE GROWING UP THAT HAVE CAUSED US HURT BUT THAT ALSO ALLOW FOR PERSONAL GROWTH AND EMPATHY. "THE TYPES OF THINGS," AS SHE SAYS, "THAT YOU LEARN TO SHARE WITH PEOPLE AND HELP THEM REALIZE THAT WE ALL HAVE LOTS IN COMMON."

WE PICKED UP WITH OUR INTERVIEW BY DISCUSSING SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF HOW DECISIONS ARE REACHED AT CLASSIFYING MEN TO MAXIMUM AND MEDIUM-SECURITY PRISONS; AND ALSO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COMMUN-

ITY IS INVOLVED IN THESE ASSESSMENTS:

LORRAINE: Perhaps some people would think they have better [Parole] Officers if we sent people back on revocations. To some people, it would look good in the statistics and would satisfy someone who is intolerant of another person's lifestyle -- even though that person is not breaking the law.

COMMUNICATOR: Do you ever find it curious that people don't accept your authority?

LORRAINE: What do you mean: "accept"?

COMMUNICATOR: You might find a family who has had a tough time of it, and then they find their son in jail; then the same authorities are asking for their cooperation. Don't you find it curious that these people would come to you in your position of authority?

LORRAINE: No, not really. I don't approach people like that... When I classify a guy to Springhill or Dorchester, I try to be the one to do the community-assessment. I like to do it myself. I try to explain what to expect when he gets to Springhill: about going into Reception, how long he's going to be there, what they're going to do to him when he gets there, what to expect. I draw a diagram of what Springhill looks like and explain what the Living Units are like, individual cells, and who the "Joe" of the Unit is; what shops they have, and that he can expect to sit on his butt for a little while because things don't happen overnight. I go into the homosexual problem to some extent, then I say: "Okay, that's what you can expect."

Then I tell him that I'm going to see his people and I'm going to ask them about him. I'm going to ask what kind of life he's led, and what they think he is like; and what the future holds for him. I explain to the family what I just explained to the guy -- what it's going to be like. Plus I leave it with them that it's easier for me to find out what's going on with your son than it is for you, so if I can, I'll find out for you.

I also explain about visiting hours and what guys are allowed to have; you know, all those little itty-bitty things that people ask, plus all the kinds of questions they bring up. If I get a call later on, and they want to know who they can call, I give them the names and numbers and that's the way I leave it.

COMMUNICATOR: What influence do you think your assessments have, mainly to do with community-assessments, over the final outcome of any decision they are used in?

LORRAINE: That depends who reads them.

COMMUNICATOR: Okeh, who reads them?

LORRAINE: I know the Classification people read the reports in Springhill and I know there have been times when some of the community-assessments I have written have been the reason why people have not been allowed out. I know that, and basically I've agreed with the decision not to let them come out.

One thing is that we don't get enough information on a guy who is in there when we get to do our community-assessment. If we had a real, true assessment of what a guy was really doing, then you're going to get a better reception, say, from the police. If you can go and say: "Look, he's been doing this, this and this," and personally, I have a good relationship with the police. If I say a guy looks half-decent they tend to go along with me. It's not very often that we get into much of a hassle with them on that. I'll fight for it if I have to.

Also, when you go to a prisoner's home, they really want to know! You know, the only real contact they have with that guy as to how he's really doing is through us. They hear it from the guy's point of view, but they say: "We've been down that road before; we've seen the lies and the deceits and that whole kind of thing," and the whole kit-and-kaboodle that goes with anyone in the penitentiary, "and then I'll trust him and then find out that I shouldn't have."

When I tell them that he's really going to school, they say, "I don't be-

lieve it," if that happens to be the case.

So, actually, when a guy has gone to the penitentiary, 9 times out of 10, I will have a little bit of contact with him. That doesn't always work to the best but more times it does, and particularly with the younger guys because its mostly their parents that want to know.

I think you can get a pretty accurate picture just by talking to parents. I don't think you have to go that far outside. Basically, what difference does it make what the neighbours think? Really! The way things are going these days Johnny-next-door may be in the same boat!

COMMUNICATOR: What is your feeling on prisoners being shown reports you have written on them?

LORRAINE: I don't agree with me doing a report and sending it to Springhill, and the guy on the other end saying: "Look, this is what she put in it" without me having some option. Now what I do, generally, and I've worked it out with a couple of Classification Officers at Springhill: "Look, if you want to tell him what I wrote in the report, okay, go ahead."

Officially speaking, you're not supposed to read those reports, but if you're going to show a guy my report, thank you very much -- I'll show it to him myself!

OSCAR MILLER WITH B.E.

"I was a counsellor for two-and-a-half years at Shelburne Boy's Home where you get to see the boys come and go, and it's a shame because you watch them go right up through the system, so you've got to realize there's something wrong with the system. Granted, it may not be because the organizations that work directly with them didn't try, but it's a very complex thing; there are multi-problem situations whereby you get a child in the correctional institution and what you should be doing is, in essence, working with the family too, to re-educate them to realine their thinking. What happens is the boys return to the same environment with the same peers and pretty soon they become influenced again. The first month or so after they get out they are good, you couldn't ask for a better person, but after that they get back into the swing of things, and before you know it, they are back into difficulty.

"A lot of them have it a heckava lot better at Shelburne than they did at

home; you know, their physical needs are met, as well as their having a certain amount of emotional needs met as far as associating with guys their own age and with similar problems -- they don't feel out of place, and they can talk with their friends.

"One of the hangups is they can learn a lot of stuff from the other guys that they normally wouldn't know as far as the criminal element is concerned and this can foster criminal attitudes. I would sooner see an alternative proposal or program different from the Correctional Centres. I think Detention Centres would be more effective, where if a child is acting up and he's still on probation and just isn't making it, rather than committing him to the Nova Scotia School for Boys, why not put him in a Detention Centre in the city where he will stay all week and go to the same public school but has to go back to the Centre at night. Instead of Foster Parents we could have a male counsellor there -- or a female one for the girl's Centre, and

the kids could get out for weekends to go to their homes. The Probation Officer involved would visit the boy once a week to see what's happening. At the end of a two month period, if this was deemed necessary by the Courts initially, the boy goes back to court and his case is reviewed. If they find that the kid is getting along well, fine. If they feel that maybe another month there will be beneficial, they can let him go back to the Centre instead of sending him to Shelburne and, in this way, the parents can visit him weekends if they like, or the child can still go home on weekends. In this way there would be less separation between the parents and the child and there wouldn't be such a distance to travel, thereby encouraging the family to keep in contact with the boy."

"My philosophy is don't ask me to do any more for you than you are prepared to do for yourself. Sometimes that makes me look like a hard fellow, but I tell them, 'Look, I'll bend over backwards for you if I can but I've got no time for you to just come in here to manipulate me and give me a snow job. I'm wasting time on you that maybe somebody else could benefit from.'

"You know, if a guy isn't making any effort to help himself, maybe it's time I suspended him and if he's got nothing going for him, recommend a revocation; because, in actual fact, I'm doing him a favour -- although you might not think it: I could let him go and then he goes and gets into trouble and gets two more years, which forfeits his parole and he's got to go back and do four. So, it means that he's got to do four years instead of the two he had left, and this is what I say, in actual fact I'm helping him. If he can't place controls on himself, I don't like the idea of having to give him a slap on the wrist but if a slap on the wrist doesn't work and he needs his hands tied, then I might have to tie his hands. And, it's not easy, it's not easy."

"I am not opposed to a guy coming in here and sounding off, not at all. I've had guys come in here and I've said, 'If you've got anything on your mind, you tell me. We should be laying our cards on the table.' And if the guy says, 'Well, I don't like this G.D. effen thing,' I say, 'Fine, that's cool, that's good. Now why? What else is on your mind?' and he'll say 'this, this, and such-and-such' and I'll say, 'Good! good! keep going!' I'm not afraid of my position type thing; if I'm going to run around flaunting my position then I'm not much of a person and I shouldn't be here. I think they realize that, you know. I can make a decision which affects them greatly, but if a guy comes in and sounds off, good; he's got it off

his mind and if he ventilates with me then he's not going to go outside and raise hell, and I think this is healthy because then they know they can come in and talk to you."

"I enjoy people! I get cheesed off thoroughly when I hear people say, 'Well I don't like that G.D. So-and-so. He's no good for nothing' kind of thing. To me, we all have our faults, fine. I may get cheesed off with a guy; it's not that I don't like him as a person: I dislike his attitude and his behaviour pattern. You know, if he doesn't want to communicate or if he's giving me a con shot, it's no sweat off my ass; he's the one he's going to hurt, he's hurting himself, and I say, 'Listen, if I have to suspend you, the only person you can blame is yourself', because my suspension is based on what I see or what I don't see -- it's your behaviour pattern or your attitude."

"I had a guy who had I revoked he wouldn't have gotten into trouble and the Board mentioned that perhaps he should have been revoked because they thought his attitude was regressing, and that maybe he should go back until he got his head straightened out; and, probably, if I had recommended revocation he might not have got the other year, but it was the chance I took for the guy."

"I don't like it. For a crime against property I would sooner see a guy stay on the street and we could use some other kind of deterrant process, rather than seeing him sent to jail. In essence, I think we should consider the offender and not the offence, unless it happens to be a violent offence."

"This is what annoys me: there has got to be something wrong with the system if we see them coming from one level right up through. The fallacy about the whole doggone system is this: we get them when everybody else has allegedly failed, and what the public fails to realize is that we get them as a last resort and if they don't make out, the Parole Service gets accused of not doing anything. My question is what have they done to help the guy to reintegrate into the community with regards to employment, accomodations, or even being given a fair shake? They only become involved when it is somebody who is directly related or in whom they are directly interested."

"I think it is time for the institutional people and others to place the inmate in his or her proper perspective; they are the people whom we are trying to help help themselves stay out of institutions and make a go of it, and I think we have to forget about our own stupid, idiotic hangups. I think a lot

of people are saying what they feel the public wants to hear, which I think is basically a worse con job than you hear coming from some of the people who are inside, and this really infuriates me.

"I think that a lot of people aren't really honest with the inmate. I hate to see any parole officer, classification officer, police officer, judge or prosecutor say or display a very arrogant and carefree, nonchalant attitude by making statements like, 'That good for nothing S.O.B.' or 'They are no good and should be put inside and never let out, and I hate his or her guts.' Everybody is an individual and part of their environment and we, in one way or another, have helped to make them the way they are, and this is why they need all the assistance that is available to help them. We might not be responsible directly but someone in our society was, some organization or faction, and I think we have to start looking at it from this point of view. By the same token there

are certain individuals whom we can't help but at least we can try to be more understanding.

"I think when we talk in terms of the financial situation and not having finances readily available is a fallacy within the system itself. I think this should be looked into very seriously, because we can find money for roads and schools and everything else, but yet not to help individuals who need help. And perhaps if certain individuals had had help at one particular stage they might never have come before the courts. I think that with all the facilities we have at our disposal we should be trying to do more preventative work. I think greater public exposure and awareness are the greatest weapons and institutions we have as far as helping people is concerned. People cannot be helped who are in trouble if the general public doesn't realize the problems or the ways to help these people."

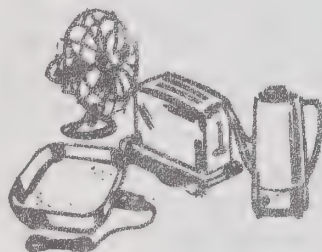
SENTENCED BEFORE AUGUST 26, 1969?

IF YOU WERE SENTENCED BEFORE AUGUST 26, 1969 AND WERE PAROLED ON THAT SENTENCE, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO BE RE-CREDITED

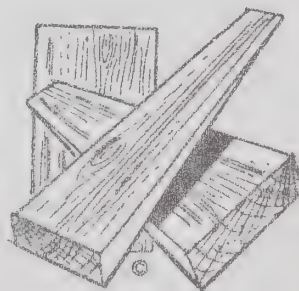
WITH STATUTORY REMISSION TIME IF YOUR PAROLE WAS FORFEITED OR REVOKED. TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOU QUALIFY, CONTACT YOUR LAWYER OR "PENITENTIARY LEGAL SERVICES," P.O. BOX 1348, SACKVILLE, New Brunswick.....

HALLIDAYS

HOME CARE CENTRES



BUILDING SUPPLIES
HOUSEWARES
HARDWARES
CARPETS — TOOLS
KITCHENWARES
APPLIANCES



597-3744
SPRINGHILL

WE'RE NOT SATISFIED UNLESS YOU ARE"

Makin' Out:



'Lady Madonna'

by J.B. Ettinger

THE SCHEME WAS DECENT, NOT A TREMENDOUS SCORE, BUT ENOUGH AFTER EXPENSES TO maintain a pleasant lifestyle. It was easy too. Excavate the Madonna, shoot out to the suburbs and collect a few hundred from the Italian. He must have realized where the pieces came from, but didn't seem to care -- business is business.

Eddie and Papo made a paradoxical team; as their backgrounds were similar yet also complemented one another. Eddie had the intense and careful outlook of his Armenian forebears. As for Papo, his boyhood in the Carribean had shaped him with a relaxed and unphased attitude. However, one best not be fooled by this attitude, as Papo could leap to action in a flash. His youth spent around the Havana docks had schooled him with the keen ability to help himself to other people's property. They had actually stumbled into the religious artifacts business entirely by chance. On one of their customary afternoon drives around the city, they stopped to watch the demolition of an old church. In the rubble strewn rectory yard, Papo spotted an old and very beautiful, white granite Madonna. A few quick words and a palmed bill to the foreman found Mary loaded into the car's trunk.

When they resumed the leisurely afternoon drive, Eddie finally spoke: "Man, whatcha want that for, whatcha gonna do with it anyways?"

Papo contemplated the question, took a long poke on the "Chiba" joint he'd lit, and replied matter of factly, "It's nice, I'll give it to my aunt in Po'keepsie for the yard or somethin'." That was all that was said on the matter as the smoke shifted their interest to the women filling the afternoon streets of el Barrio.

On the weekend, Papo, his wife Maria, and daughter Roni left the city to visit his aunt and uncle. His present made a big hit with the women, as a result he and his uncle Manny spent the better part of Saturday afternoon installing Mary in her new home. When the women had gone off to fix the barbecue, Manny leaned forward in his lawn chair and innocently asked, "So wher'cha get the statue?"

"Oh, I picked her up in the old neighborhood," came the reply.

"Ya glommed it, huh?"

"No Manny, it was a legitimate business transaction." Papo narrated the events of the afternoon; how he and Eddie had driven around looking for a little something on the side and came upon the demolition site. With that explanation, the subject of the statue was dropped and Manny and Papo joined the rest of the family for dinner.

Manny felt genuine pleasure having his relatives from the city join him for weekends at his beautiful country home. He had paid dues though, thirty years as a longshoreman. Now, he was connected in some vague way with union activities and funding.

Later in the evening, over cognac and cigar, Manny once again showed interest in the statue. "Ya know, if you and your friend stumble onto any more of those statues, I know a guy out on Long Island who'd take 'em offa your hands. Give me a call during the week at the club and I'll give you the information. We'll have lunch at a nice little family place on Elizabeth Street. Meanwhile, I'll talk to the guy. Okay?"

"It's fine with me, tio, I'll call you," was Papo's ready response.

Eddie spent the weekend with Angie, laid back in her comfortable air conditioned apartment. Saturday was overcast and muggy so they didn't leave the apartment until the cool of the evening came upon the city.

The night was spent at a Chinese restaurant and a Latin discotheque. Angie looked dynamite. Her foxy outfit suited her long brunette hair, olive complexion, and slim figure. At the club they sat off to the side of the dance floor, out and away from the hubbub. Between drinks and small talk they watched the couples execute the intricate Spanish dance steps. A guy asked Eddie's permission, as is the custom of Spanish men, for a dance with Angie; Eddie readily consented. The up-tempo Latin number gave Eddie an opportunity to gaze intently at Angie's free moving body. He always preferred watching attractive women dance, rather than be in the midst of the crush. He leaned back, propped his feet up, and imagined Angie as a belly dancer and himself as a hookah-smoking Pasha. The sight of Angie, along with the mini-reverie, had the usual effect on Eddie's desires. It wasn't long before they were on their way back to the apartment.

Sunday was slow and quiet as summer Sundays usually are. They slept late and went for a walk in the Botanical Gardens, a favorite spot, as the dense foliage kept it the coolest place in the city. When they returned to the apartment, Angie became depressed. Eddie had expected it. They talked about her dislike for her job at the Phone Company, and her desire for a job at a new place; hopefully an office with a younger, hipper crowd. Nothing was resolved. She took a pill and went to bed early, but Eddie stayed up for the late movie as he rarely felt sleepy before two or three in the morning. He half-watched the late show and smoked a few joints of Papo's super-good tea. One time he tip toed into the bedroom just to watch Angie sleep for a few moments. He found it pleasurable watching her sleep but in a way totally apart from thoughts of sex. After the movie he undressed and quietly slipped in beside her. Before drifting off he once again thought, "I'll never understand how people make that 9 to 5 drag, don't see how they do it, day after day -- not for me. Well, Papo will be back from the country tomorrow and we'll scheme up something." He had completely forgotten the Madonna.

Eddie and Papo met Monday afternoon at the regular place in the park. They compared notes on their respective weekends. Papo brought up the subject of the Madonna and Eddie asked, "So your aunt liked it, huh?"

"Oh yeah, very nice -- but that's not the thing. Here's the gimmick; my uncle Manny says he knows a dude out on the Island who will buy these things. Ya know, they're valuable. So we jus' gotta get these things and get 'em out there."

Eddie then wondered out loud. "Yeah, but stealing from the Church, I don't know about that, Pap."

"Look it, we can't wait around for the city to rip 'em down, they don't do that anyhow, they turn 'em into Methadone clinics. And with the kids always sneaking into the church grounds they'd fuck up the statues anyway. So actually, we're saving 'em for posterity and making a few bucks for our trouble."

"Well, if you look at it that way, who could disagree. Let's drive around and check out some old churches, we can go back tonight and perform our public service."

By Wednesday night the site was picked. Papo easily popped the lock to the rectory grounds and the two "public servants" casually strolled in, pulling a kid's sturdy wagon. They stopped suddenly, then solemnly looked down at Mary. Papo whispered, "Doesn't she look beautiful?"

Eddie replied, "Lovely, let's get to work."

Twenty minutes of digging, careful prying, and lifting, found Mary in the wagon. They quickly stashed her in the trunk of the car. Tomorrow they would drive out to Long Island.

The Italian operated a large nursery and landscaping business, far out on Long Island, near Patchogue. While on the Expressway, Eddie had to keep telling Papo to slow down. An hour and a half later they pulled into the lot of Capri Landscaping Inc. One of the workers pointed out Sal, the owner, to Papo.

Papo introduced himself, but there was a moment of non-recognition, then Sal remembered the name and said, "Oh right, your uncle Manny tol' me about you -- somethin' about statues you got for sale. Pull ina back and I'll take a look." They drove around back, reparked, then opened the trunk for Sal's inspection. "Nice, niice, you don't see stone work like that anymore. Tell you what, you get \$250 per piece, cash on delivery, get me all you can, but only these nice old pieces, none of that "Made in Japan" garbage. Shit, these pieces are so nice, even the fuckin' Jews will want one for the yard!"

When they returned to the city, Papo dropped Eddie off at Angie's place and

shouted to him as he was going in, "Eddie, tomorrow we do a little arkology, okay?"
"It's a bet," was the reply.

Papo drove towards the old neighborhood with no particular destination in mind. He double-parked when he noticed a few familiar faces in front of the bodega. He ambled over, taking his own sweet time. A group of five or six men were playing dominos; when they greeted him enthusiastically, he beamed. Their attention quickly shifted back to their game and the betting. Papo's interest waned so he decided to walk around the neighborhood and absorb some of the good feelings it always gave him. He passed an elderly nun collecting funds for flood victims in Santa Domingo. He carefully pressed a \$20 bill into her palm, she looked up, smiled, and said,
"God bless you."

* * * * *

At Large/Cymbol

Chapter Five: "VIRTUE IS ITS OWN REWARD"

"AT LARGE: A Prison Journal" is another continuing novel that will be presented in THE COMMUNICATOR on a monthly basis. The writer chooses to use the pseudonym CYMBOL and we will respect his right to remain anonymous. His writings are reflective of his experiences in a maximum security prison but since he is writing from Springhill, there is no doubt his writer's eye will fall on the medium setting here. All names and events mentioned within the pages are historically false but poetically true, and will remain so to protect the guilty.

SOMETIMES I LOOK AROUND ME, AND I NOTICE THAT A VERY STRANGE THING HAS BEEN happening. I'll suddenly realize that I'm concerned about the feelings of the people here who are ordering my life for me.

Now on the surface, that doesn't seem at all strange or wrong. It shows, I guess, that something's left of me that's supposed to be there; that's always been there -- whether anyone else has ever noticed it or not. But I'll be there talking (or more often listening) to one of them and be guaging all the time, how I can answer them or let them know something without offending them; and then it'll all just jump back at me and I'll realize that it's almost impossible to offend or insult them -- that I'M caring about something they are completely insensitive to.

Again, there's nothing really wrong about that, except that it leaves me with the uncomfortable sense of wondering who is really being kept in here and for what?

It's like the way we use the word "crazy." We say that people are crazy or acting crazy whenever their behaviour deviates slightly from what we are told to believe is the "normal" or usual way to act.

I'm sensitive to how this bull or that screw is reacting to how I'm talking to him. I'm interested in whether he will understand what I'm telling him -- and that's crazy, that's really crazy -- because I know (or I should know) that it doesn't and won't make any difference to him how sensitive I might be about not hurting or offending him; and I'm not doing it because I think it'll make my life easier in here or will win me a ticket out, or any special kinds of considerations. I'm doing it because that's the way I am, and how I always have been... and he doesn't have a clue.

Think about that.

People get bored very quickly with endless repetitions of injustice -- but people go crazy with an endless repetition of indifference.

You get tired, so easily tired hearing about all the wrongs, all the starving, all the hurts and unending pain; seeing all the broken or breaking people around you -- so you just sit and endure and find something to hold onto. (Often it's only hatred keeps you going -- and, no matter what or how much you've been taught about it, you KNOW that hatred must hold some goodness in it, if for no other reason than... it just keeps you going on -- and it doesn't much matter Where or How.)

So you end up doing Their job for Them most of your day -- and that passes your time, too, if nothing else -- showing them the example of a compassion they already have the cure for; and if you're lucky, you give up on the dumbheads outside who have found convenient ways to hate by just picking up their telephones and calling in to their radio station and arguing capital punishment, and feeling so good about "some people" being no good and turning back to fill in the jumble card their IGA has so generously given them in the hopes that they'll wake up someday \$100 richer with everyone in the neighborhood talking about them.

I wonder sometimes what all those housewives do, who listen to the radio everyday, all day long, waiting for the numbers to be called, trying to name the mysterious personalities, hoping to grab something free from their radios -- something they don't need but dream about having, just to have.

But I don't have to wonder about them (... and actually you can't, too much, without wondering about your own sanity because their normal is so insane); because right here I've got other give-aways to worry and wonder about: what's in my cell that They know I've got that they could decide at any time to charge me with? How do I get through another day of this? What happens if I get used to all of this? Who do you have to fuck around here to get a parole or a temporary absence pass?

The cure for compassion is regimentation. Seeing people not as people anymore (and the rationalizations for that are easy indeed -- just ask someone who works here) but as merchandise, and this place is a warehouse and we're just stock that has to be handled certain ways if we're to keep.

People don't usually recognize the banality of Evil, so they just ignore it or don't believe it's what it is. Well, you have to keep "these people" somewhere! and if not here, well then -- where?

It's alright to do anything to anyone, once they've been designated by an impartial (who cares about accurate?) Authority who says THEY'RE evil. Deliberate cruelty -- without passion or feeling -- administered with indifference lets you arrange the merchandise, discuss it as if it isn't in the same room with you, pry into its head, laugh about its secrets, give it whatever you think it deserves, judge it, package it, make it do what you want it to do whenever you want it to do it -- and do all this with no questions or feelings about what you are doing. Secure in the knowledge that you're Right -- or designated as right -- and they're wrong; otherwise what are they doing here under your care?

And yet, knowing all that, having that ingrained into my knowledge the way I know my name and number, I still find that when I'm talking to them, I'm treating THEM as people, and caring about what and how I speak to them, so that I don't hurt or offend them. I'm taking a lot for granted, of course: I'm assuming that they have feelings to be hurt, that no matter how grotesque their halloween masks are, that they have some real feelings behind them -- and that's assuming a whole lot, believe me! But none the less, it must be true.

I heard the chaplain say once, "if God can stand these people, I certainly can!" (He was talking about us, of course, not his fellow staff). I remember during a "disturbance" here some years back, he stood in the yard with a cup of tea in one hand and a billyclub in the other, calmly daring anyone to step near him, clubbing guys as he coolly sipped his tea. When he put the cup down, after he was finished with it, the cup was still warm, whether from his hand or because he didn't feel the disturbance was worth the interruption and just went on doing what he was doing... I don't really know.

I suppose though, that hypocrisy really occurs when people who know they're bastards make themselves believe they're really good and doing right.

Not much action in this chapter; but it's good to sit down and just talk sometimes. Those little girls keep travelling up and down my little isle and I often wonder how they're making out now that school's out and no more of the likes of me to talk to them in assembly Friday afternoons. Don't matter, I guess: There'll be others telling them where prison is really at. I guess my public speaking career is all over. Still, as they say, I've got some fine memories to look forward to.

I hear the Man dancing down the stairway, so I guess it's ciao-time, babes!

* * * * *

POYLS OF



WISDOM

by Parahamster Donut and Dindon (Hewhohewhocomesintheflush)

YOGI PARAHAMSTER DONUT IS A RECENT MYSTICAL ACQUISITION OF the Springhill Arseram Retreat. Prior to his arrival in the Unstitution he was a well known finger in the soup de jour of Nonthought where he was appreciated as a culinary delight by his only disciple, Dindon (Hewhohewhocomesintheflush).

Holy Messrs. Donut and Dindon, in an effort to acquaint the masses with their wisdom (which has been a point of debate from the start) have generously consented to publish their drivel as a continuing crock of bull in the Communicator.

The Communicator is not exactly proud of this latest acquisition but what the Hell, when all there is to talk about is cheese sandwiches and what the price of chocolate bars will be after the next ten cent a day pay raise, one tends to expect an upsurge in the frequency of Loonies. We have the distinct feeling that this latest contributor is just that.

BRUDDERS, I HAVE COME TO TEACH YOU THE FREEWAY TO THE GREAT COSMETIC PEARL that lies deep in everyone's rectum (Cymbolism, dear Brudders, Cymbolism).

My methods of teaching have been misunderstood by everyone (including myself) since I began and, in an effort to diffuse you, I would like to put in words that which there are no words for; grow out of holes where there are no holes; look into eyes where there are no eyes; seek where there is no seeking aloud.

WIBBLE! WOBBLE! CRUNCH!

Each month another detour in the inevitable direction will be unfolded as it was intended on the sacred sheets of the Communicator. Physical, spiritual, and relevant counsel will be the main theme, with drifting into social commentary, cultural points of concern, and news from Noxema for those who have not yet reached the Poyl. Coincidental Medication, that roadmap to Noxema practiced by the Swami, will be intro-induced by masseurs of yer micro-range oven.

The great cosmetic bicycle is missing a few spokes this year and seems aimed at some of the potholes in the road to Inner Peace. The traditional center of cosmetic vibrations, the east, is suffering from disturbances; and using myself as the center of the Universe (of course) focus should be on a spot sum 50 Jesus miles to the west. To celebrate this shift of energy the Brothers in Mqinktown have planned a demonstration of a yogic spine stretching exercize, which when the questions of benefit came up, fell into disuse -- dropped out of sight, so to speak.

On a day of great festivity (the climax of those born in the Year of the Pig) as the position is reached, we shall all here at the Retreat bow to the west and await word on this particular exercize. I myself have never gotten into this peculiar method but, if I remember right (and I always do), it acts as an excellent muscular relaxant -- especially of the bowels. For an in-depth look at the pros and cons of this discipline, get in touch with Brother Bill Burroughs at the Mugwump Shrine.

For those mothers who really enjoy the written word, the periodical, DIGESTION, available anytime around the Unstitution, should delight your sense of adventure. Dedicated worshippers of the Arseram trip relate harrowing and enlightening peregrinations in the void, searching out the pinnacle of Kharmal-Kraft -- the ancient Eskimo Du-Du God.

This month's dietary suggestion is to take some bran or whole wheat cereal from the food shrine and have it blessed by the Watchers as you return to your cell for meditation. I have found this practice improves the flavour a great deal, as well as rewarding the task orientation of the Watchers.

Recommended posture for this month is to place your left root in your right ear; place the right root as close to your mouth as possible. At this point you will hear a series of clicks.

It is also suggested that you chant: until you get an answer, he loo he LOO HE LOOOOOOOOO.

Saying of the month: "TRANSCEND DA BULLSHIT!"

KIDNAP POEM



ever been kidnapped
by a poet
if i were a poet
i'd kidnap you
put you in my phrases and meter
you to jones beach
or maybe coney island
or maybe just to my house
lyric you in lilacs
dash you in the rain
blend into the beach
to complement my sea
play the lyre for you
ode you with my love song
anything to win you
wrap you in the red Black green
show you off to mama
yeah if i were a poet i'd kid
nap you

Nikki Giovanni
© 1963



Contractions

Outside,
 softly now,
 my face, my eyes, my senses drawn
to land frozen
 through tints of fall
undefined
 till out of pores
the ground squeezes
 solitary
patches of white
 snow
 spreads
gradually to cover everything.

It is winter—
 this,
the third season
I have felt from within my cells.

At times,
 abstract the walls
 formless concrete rooms
twisted in reality
controlling the scenery
—never a consideration
 in the formation of my dreams.

Never have I had such dreams before!

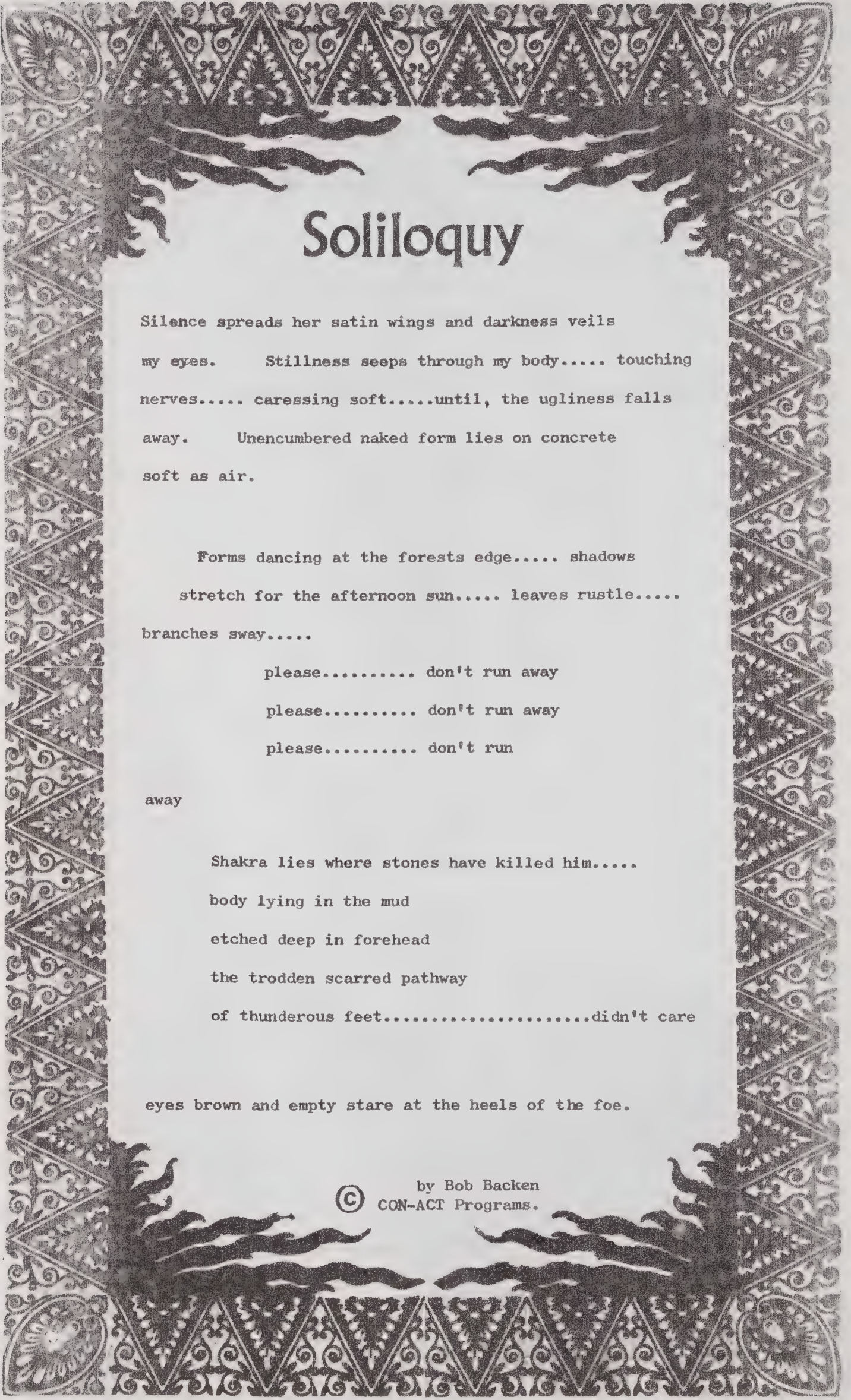
Subdued trickles come touching me as
 down the halls
metal doors are crashing shut,
 and I am a night deposit
left in my own company.

I sit, my feelings stilled,
 to my window
my face, my eyes, my senses drawn
 gazing
irregular as designs
 white on black
reflect,
 broken
on patches of ice, strangely,
in an enchanted field.

What need I say?

In here
winter
is but one more season.

by Robbie Hebert
© CON-ACT Programs



Soliloquy

Silence spreads her satin wings and darkness veils
my eyes. Stillness seeps through my body..... touching
nerves..... caressing soft.....until, the ugliness falls
away. Unencumbered naked form lies on concrete
soft as air.

Forms dancing at the forests edge..... shadows
stretch for the afternoon sun..... leaves rustle.....
branches sway.....

please..... don't run away

please..... don't run away

please..... don't run

away

Shakra lies where stones have killed him.....

body lying in the mud

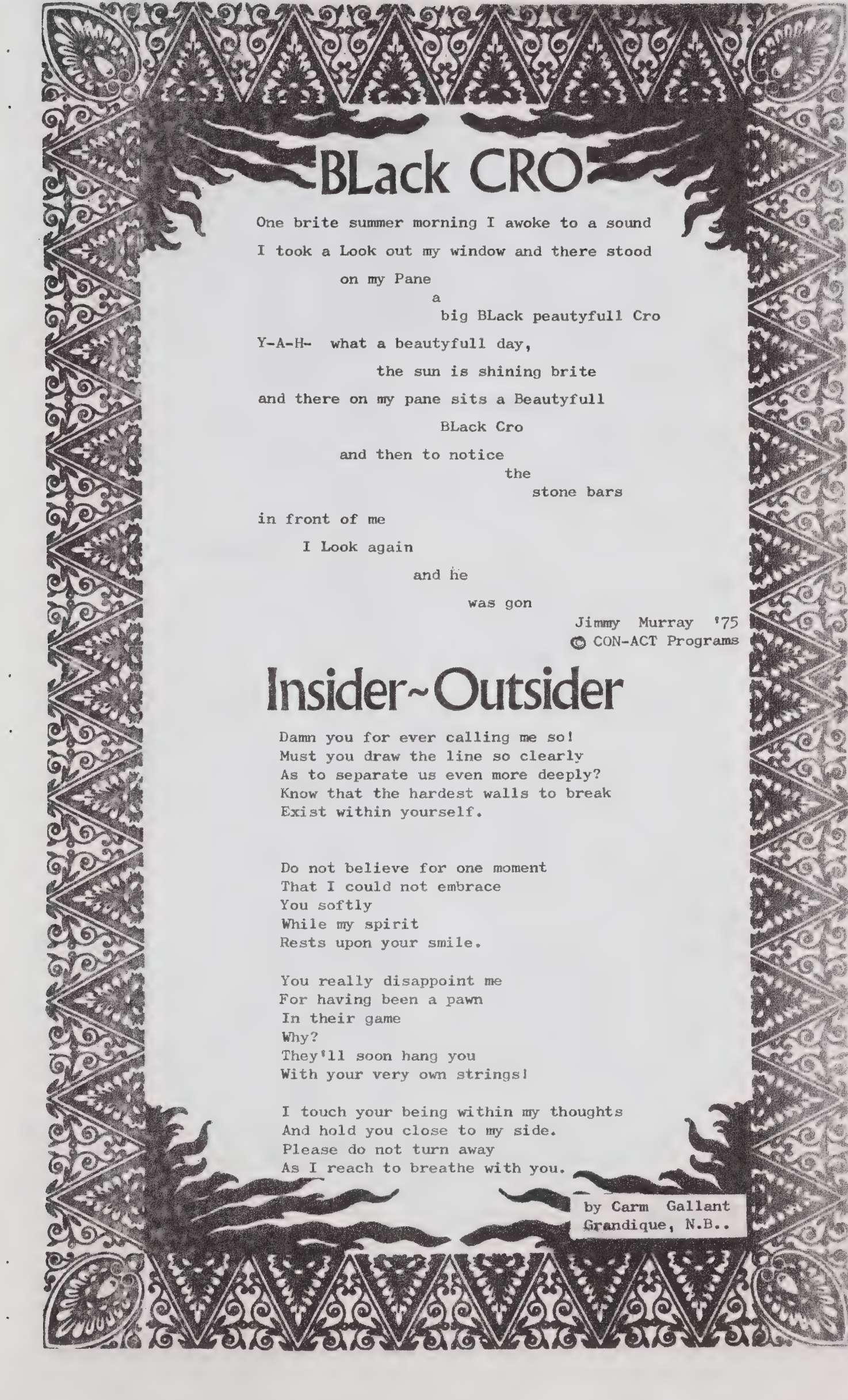
etched deep in forehead

the trodden scarred pathway

of thunderous feet.....didn't care

eyes brown and empty stare at the heels of the foe.

© by Bob Backen
CON-ACT Programs.



Black CRO

One brite summer morning I awoke to a sound
I took a Look out my window and there stood
on my Pane
a
big BLack beautyfull Cro
Y-A-H- what a beautyfull day,
the sun is shining brite
and there on my pane sits a Beautyfull
BLack Cro
and then to notice
the
stone bars
in front of me
I Look again
and he
was gon

Jimmy Murray '75
© CON-ACT Programs

Insider~Outsider

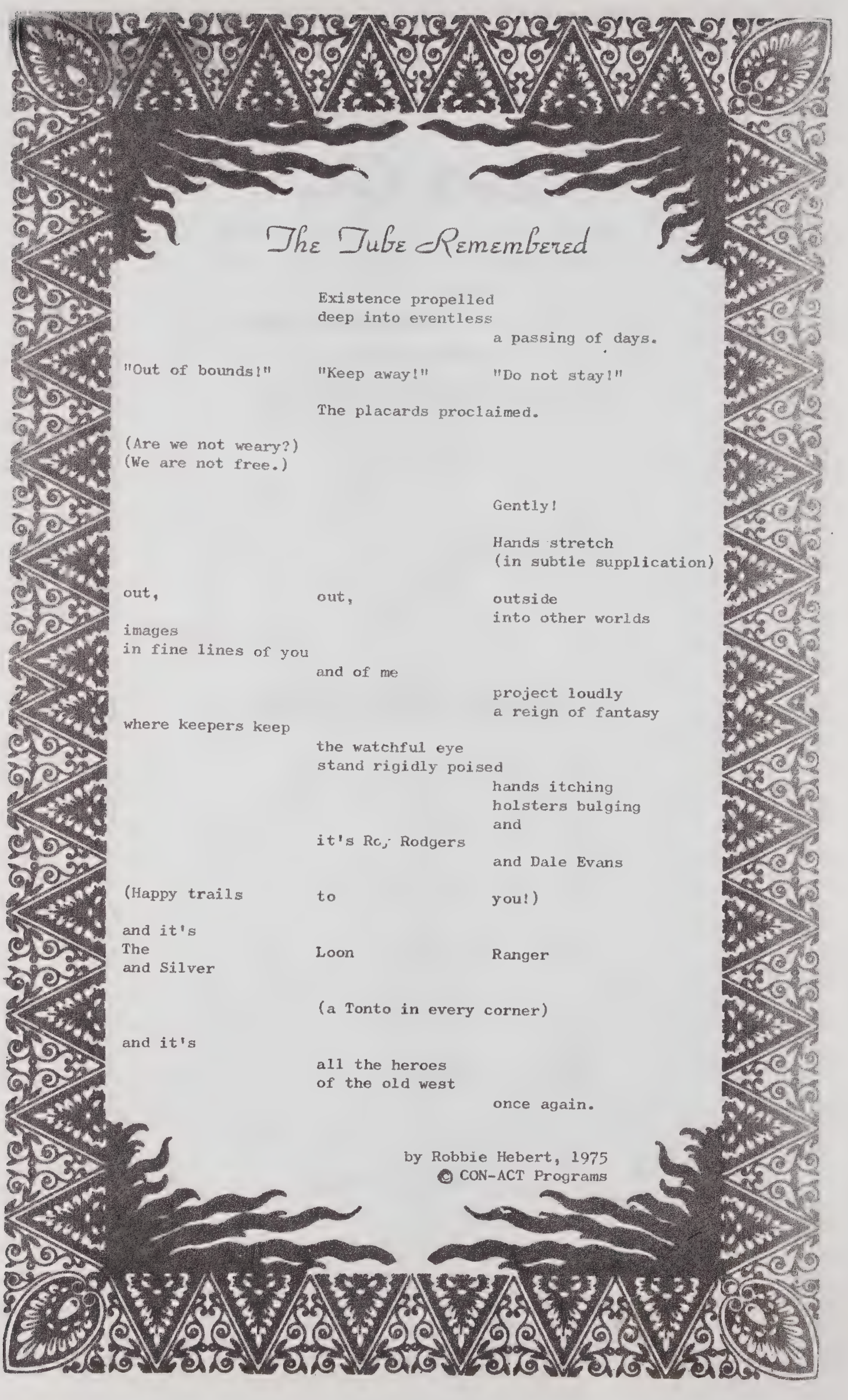
Damn you for ever calling me so!
Must you draw the line so clearly
As to separate us even more deeply?
Know that the hardest walls to break
Exist within yourself.

Do not believe for one moment
That I could not embrace
You softly
While my spirit
Rests upon your smile.

You really disappoint me
For having been a pawn
In their game
Why?
They'll soon hang you
With your very own strings!

I touch your being within my thoughts
And hold you close to my side.
Please do not turn away
As I reach to breathe with you.

by Carm Gallant
Grandique, N.B..



The Tube Remembered

Existence propelled
deep into eventless

a passing of days.

"Out of bounds!"

"Keep away!"

"Do not stay!"

The placards proclaimed.

(Are we not weary?)
(We are not free.)

Gently!

Hands stretch
(in subtle supplication)

out,
images
in fine lines of you

out,
and of me

outside
into other worlds

where keepers keep

the watchful eye
stand rigidly poised

project loudly
a reign of fantasy

hands itching
holsters bulging
and

it's Rc, Rodgers

and Dale Evans

(Happy trails

to

you!)

and it's
The
and Silver

Loon

Ranger

(a Tonto in every corner)

and it's

all the heroes
of the old west

once again.

by Robbie Hebert, 1975

© CON-ACT Programs

All of My Prayers are Now Forgotten

NONSENSE—strange, endless term swept
stroke swept stroke swept stroke swept
stroke figures fierce

doubt filled along lines
where names have been signed
over under
and to the side of each other
stiffly glued
like ribbons of papered flies,
like running needles
threaded through a seeker's eye
turning everything
often out to be glory.

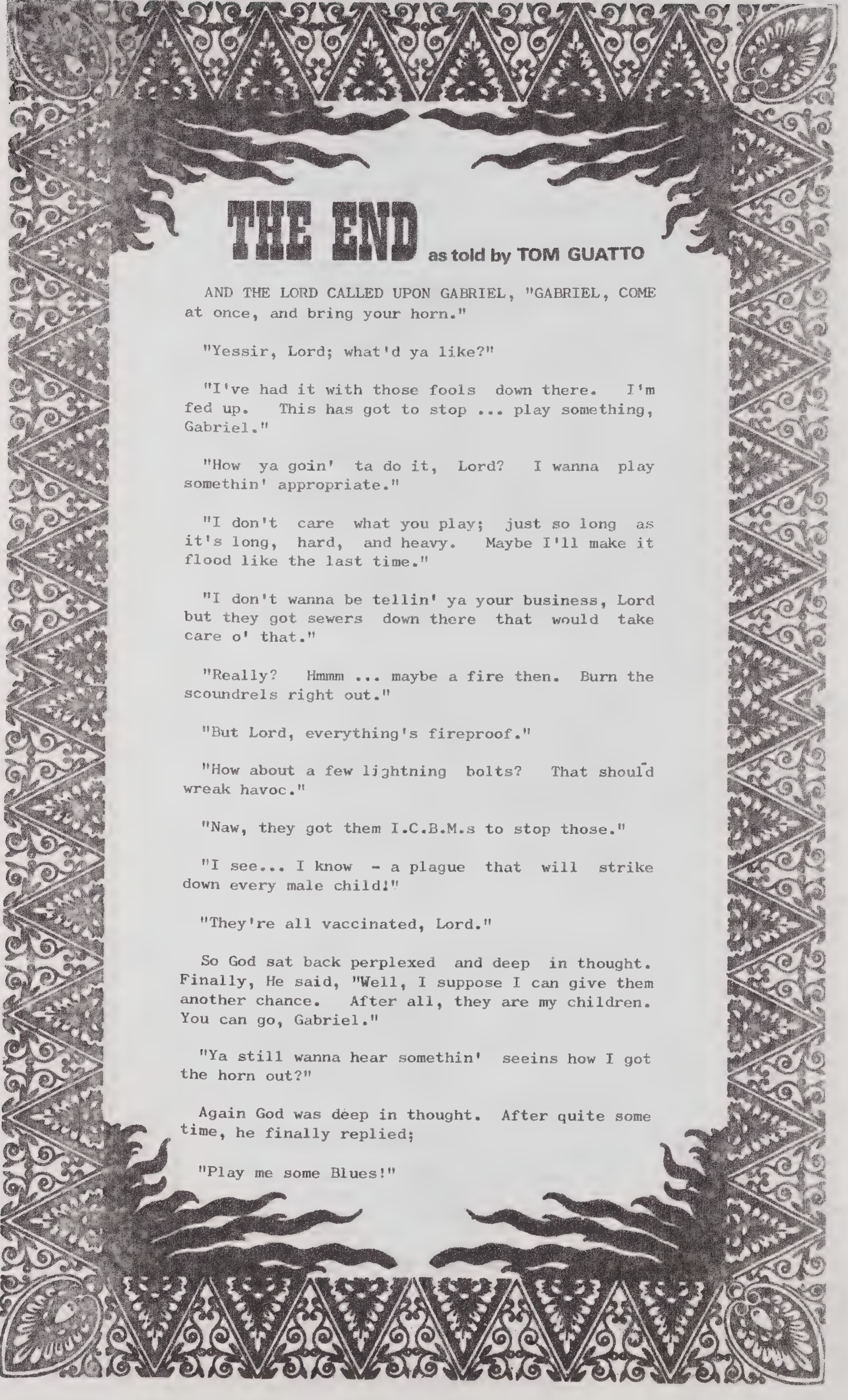
They opened third eyes
to a well established road
telephone poles on the side
they crucified their intentions
loud songs that reeked of monotony.

Edging along in deception,
for years they failed to come across.

To find themselves
out of their heads they fell
one morning when they awoke,
their bodies laid early
down to wander around
all absence of any real communication,
their meaning centered
haphazard by words
thrown around to justify
the conception
have I of their character.

Drunken flies
rendered by the night lights
whisper, whisper, whisper
strange exclamations
to harmonize
with their ingrown states of mind.

Regardless of it all,
the music penetrates me
at times
when I am so early in the morning
punching myself through
in an effort to make of this
a vintage sheet
—amen.



THE END

as told by TOM GUATTO

AND THE LORD CALLED UPON GABRIEL, "GABRIEL, COME at once, and bring your horn."

"Yessir, Lord; what'd ya like?"

"I've had it with those fools down there. I'm fed up. This has got to stop ... play something, Gabriel."

"How ya goin' ta do it, Lord? I wanna play somethin' appropriate."

"I don't care what you play; just so long as it's long, hard, and heavy. Maybe I'll make it flood like the last time."

"I don't wanna be tellin' ya your business, Lord but they got sewers down there that would take care o' that."

"Really? Hmmm ... maybe a fire then. Burn the scoundrels right out."

"But Lord, everything's fireproof."

"How about a few lightning bolts? That should wreak havoc."

"Naw, they got them I.C.B.M.s to stop those."

"I see... I know - a plague that will strike down every male child!"

"They're all vaccinated, Lord."

So God sat back perplexed and deep in thought. Finally, He said, "Well, I suppose I can give them another chance. After all, they are my children. You can go, Gabriel."

"Ya still wanna hear somethin' seeins how I got the horn out?"

Again God was deep in thought. After quite some time, he finally replied;

"Play me some Blues!"

P.M. in the P.M.



P.M. HOWARD STANDS SOMEWHERE around the six-foot mark; he's lean (and lithe like a jungle cat); wears turtle-neck sweaters and blue jeans; has long black --coal black-- hair, that hangs down past his shoulders; and carries himself with an air of confidence, that is both quiet and sure.

Sure of what? Sure of himself and his music -- that's what! And his mile-wide grin goes a long way in leading you to believe that he isn't nervous when he's performing; but he is -- I could feel his heart racing when he strummed the first chord on his guitar, and that's the key to P.M. HOWARD'S talent: he makes you FEEL; he picks you up and eases you down; he slices through your heart with his lone-man songs and churns your loins with the ballsy rush of his funk and blues.

P.M. HOWARD came to Springhill sometime back in April. He brought a very big guitar, a cheat-bar, a repertoire of songs -- both his own and others -- a voice that climbs and drops on the register like it was made for ballin' to, and a professionalism that is rare in these parts.

He began his one-man concert with "Standing on the Ground" and moved to James Taylor's, "At the Zoo." He spent an hour and a half on the stand single-low and ran his way

through a gamut of songs from Bruce Cockburn, Murray McLauchlan, Leon Russell, Frank Zappa, and the Riders of the Purple Sage.

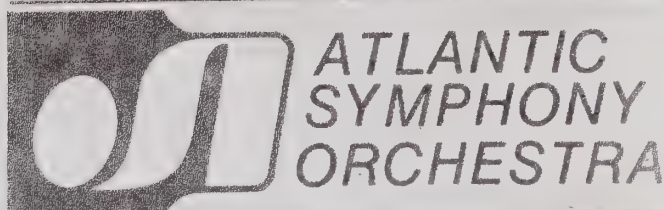
His own "Sweet Jesus," "Waverly Hotel," "Walkin' an' Talkin'," "It's All The Same," and "Can't Get Off" lead this writer to believe that we'll be hearing more from this fine songwriter and vocalist.

"Desperado" was one of the songs he sang that shook this dude down to where he lives, and his treatment of "She's A Lady" took me back to places I know lots of us would like to be -- even if only to hear the song again. "Nobody Loves You When You're Down and Out" was one of the old standards he sang that brought a smile to my face, because of the irony involved in having an artist standing before me, singing of how nobody loves us when we are down and out; but the fact of the matter is that no-one could put out the way P.M. HOWARD does unless they've got a lot of love inside them to spread around.

And just so no-one would get the feeling that he came only to make us feel those emotions that swirl around in your body when confronted by a funky lady, he gave us songs like "Lonesome Cowboy Burt" (Here's reekin' at ya) and "Just Another Lemon in the Tree of Life" to take the edge off the heaviness of some of the earlier songs. "Cowboy Burt" knocked me out and I can still see P.M.'s contortions when delivering it.

Being the down-to-earth dude that he is, P.M. brought a treat for those of us who still recall something about what a healthy lady looks like; she came in the vital and extremely feminine form that is usually associated with Life and Beauty. Her name is SHARRON TIMMINS and she is from Hull, Quebec. We first met her when she and P.M. and a host of other fine people brought "GODSPELL" to Springhill some months back, and we were now about to see and hear her do a solo gig that was to be another high in an evening of pure pleasure.

P.M., con't.



SHARRON came to us from NEPTUNE THEATRE in Halifax where she was playing in "JACQUES BRELL IS ALIVE AND WELL IN PARIS" with P.M. HOWARD and others. Before coming to Neptune to do "GODSPELL," SHARRON had been lead singer in a Rock group, working out of Hull, by the name of TERRY DEE'S ROCK AND ROLL CIRCUS. She has also spent two years stateside working at her profession, and then came to Halifax where she got Maritime fever and stayed.

She sang for us.... Oh, she did sing for us. She sang "Day by Day" in a way that tore through the audience, winning them over to anything she might want them to get into. The song is from "GODSPELL" and was one of the reasons that production was the hit it was.

Her rendition of "Don't Know How To Love Him" left the guys here gaping; the energy she put out was the kind that turns your insides inside out and leaves you feeling that you've just seen someone bare their soul for you.

SHARRON closed her set off with "Feed Your Head," followed by the claps and cheers of an adoring audience.

P.M. HOWARD and SHARRON TIMMINS will be remembered here by the three-hundred-and-some men who were entranced by their performance. With things going down the way they have been this winter, it looks like NEPTUNE THEATRE has adopted Springhill as some kind of "special" audience. They are even into sending a producer to run the shows for us: this time in the person of PAUL SHAW, and, of course, there was JOANIE SIME -- and if you've seen JOANIE SIME; what can I say?

Except, thank you for a wonderful show and may your audiences all love you the way we do.

B.E.

If your parole was SUSPENDED and subsequently REVOKED then you may be entitled to CREDIT FOR STATUTORY REMISSION for the period BETWEEN parole SUSPENSION and parole REVOCATION. As this suspension period is often THREE MONTHS LONG, we are talking about SAVING YOU upwards of 23 to 45 days of TIME INSIDE. Inmates who think that they would be eligible for release if they obtain credit for this time should CONTACT THEIR OWN LAWYER or a representative of PENITENTIARY LEGAL SERVICES, P.O. Box 1348, SACKVILLE, N.B. to determine a course of action.....

FOR MORE THAN A MONTH THE WORD HAD been out that the ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA was coming to Springhill Institution. It was rumoured that the entire orchestra was being sent to play for us by the DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION as part of their tour of the Province of Nova Scotia.

This, to some, might not seem such a wondrous and exceptional event, but to anyone who has been around one of these places any length of time, the news was almost unbelievable; no one ever sends a symphony orchestra into a prison -- everyone knows that all those prisoners like is country and western, and everyone knows that symphonic music will "go over the heads" of those crass and undisciplined inmates. And, in part, some of that is true: but not true in terms of the reality that is classical music.

The entire ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA did come to Springhill Prison and it is true that many of us did not get into intellectualizing the music they played for us -- myself included. But it is not true that the audience here didn't appreciate the significance and beauty of the concert.

We entered the gymnasium at some time around two o'clock while the orchestra was in the process of tuning and warming up. This in itself meant that they came to play beautiful music for us and they were not going to patronize us by not being prepared to give their best. At least sixty people were seated on the gym stage and the activity gave a busy atmosphere to the room. Powers of concentration were being keyed up, ears were being acclimitized to the strange and vacuous room, fingers were being loosened and put through rigorous exercise, and a mood was being established. There were no idle people on the stage and they meant business.

The room filled quickly and tension was forming. Few of us knew what to expect but most of us were excited by what was before us.

The tension shifted as the conductor, KENNETH ELLOWAY, took the center dias to begin the concert. From the first downward slicing of his baton, this writer knew he was in for an experience. They opened with Beethoven's Prometheus Overture, and though I do not pretend to know the degree of excellence with which they performed this piece, I do say it was a marvellous and beautiful thing to hear. The power that came off the stage

was both exciting and soothing, having a life of its own that crept into your awareness and made itself felt. I cannot intellectualize what I heard and saw, I can only say it was a magnificent feeling that I felt.

For the first part of the concert conductor KENNETH ELLOWAY led the orchestra through Boccherini's Concerto in D major for Flute and String Orchestra, and Dvorak's Symphony in E minor, Op. 95 ("From the New World") Largo and Finale movements. All of these pieces were played with a power that filled the gym and gave it an air that I've never felt there before; it was the effect of concentrated listening by more than two hundred prisoners who had turned out for the concert.

Of course there were a few people who were unaffected by the significance and beauty of the concert, but they numbered no more than a half dozen, and who has ever heard of ears operating to capacity while the mouth is flapping in the breeze, making those around you know just how ignorant and juvenile you are? But these few were an island (of babble and rabble) in a sea of attentiveness. The concert was obviously the highlight in the prison experiences of almost every man there, and I am sure that the orchestra was aware of the effect they were having on their audience. The continued quality of their performance gave credence to the fact that these are highly skilled professionals and that they were digging the pure pleasure written across the faces of their audience.

The first really big highlight of the concert came when MS. ELIZABETH DU BOIS, principal flutist with the ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, performed her solo in Boccherini's Concerto in D major. Her beautiful presence was enhanced by the musical expertise with which she performed. Her nervousness at performing and being "in prison" seemed to give her momentum to perform this difficult baroque piece, and she played it beautifully.

The orchestra took only a five minute intermission and came back with several pieces for harp solo, performed by MS. PHYLLIS ENSHER, one of the most renowned harpists in Canada. After performing Gradjany's Aria for Harp and Strings, MS. ENSHER played a medley of folk tunes and had the audience spell-bound during her performance.

Concertmaster, JAN BOBAK performed his violin solo in Saint-Saens, "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso" for Violin and Orchestra, Op. 28 in such a way that there was no mistaking this man's craft as anything less than that of a master artist. Without knowing anything about classical music one could not help but realize the years of practice and sacrifice that had gone into developing this man's art, and the beauty of his

music needed no intellectual explanation.

After Bizet's Suite from the Opera Carmen the orchestra played a number of contemporary themes for its "layman" audience. Although these familiar tunes were more identifiable, they did not detract from the beauty that had preceeded them, nor did they lose any of the mystique that was generated by having a full orchestra of the calibre of the ATLANTIC SYMPHONY performing for us.

At the close of the concert, to a standing ovation by the entire audience, Mr. KENNETH ELLOWAY thanked those in attendance, but he was having difficulty in making himself heard over the appreciative whistles, clapping, and general show of appreciation from the prisoners. The thought crossed my mind that it is unlikely that symphony orchestras get much whistling after their performances -- which is probably a give-away to my own snobbery, because the orchestra beamed with pleasure at the expressions of enjoyment from their audience.

After things quieted down, I approached the stage to thank some of the orchestra for their performance, and as I walked towards MS. DU BOIS she stepped down off the stage and said, "****! am I ever glad you liked our concert!" -- which just goes to show you that energy is a two-way street between audiences and performers, because like the more than two-hundred men who turned out to hear the ATLANTIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA I loved it, and can't wait until they return to brighten our lives again -- and soon, I hope.

It is the wish of a good number of people here that the DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION for the PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA be aware that we appreciate their providing this concert for us. It is the finest show I've ever seen inside the walls and rates with one of the more enjoyable moments in my life, and will be remembered as such.

Thank you for a very wonderful afternoon of high quality entertainment. We are anxious to have you return again as soon as possible.

B.E.

DAY PAROLE REVOKED?

IF YOUR DAY PAROLE WAS REVOKED YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A RETURN OF STATUTORY REMISSION IF YOU LOST REMISSION BECAUSE OF THAT REVOCATION. TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOU QUALIFY, CONTACT YOUR LAWYER OR "PENITENTIARY LEGAL SERVICES" P.O. BOX 1348, SACKVILLE, New Brunswick

A Person of Value

by ROBERT BAILLIE,
CHAIRMAN A.O.Y.

ON MAY THE 14TH, 1975, I MET WHAT I consider a person of value; this person's name is MR. EARL WARD. Through the Cape Breton Drug Dependency Association, Mr. Ward invited four members from ACCENT ON YOUTH to speak at schools, church groups, and town groups in the Cape Breton area, and also for a radio programme in Sydney.

Before I talk about Mr. Ward, I would like to say that ACCENT ON YOUTH is a programme at the Springhill Institution where inmates go out into the Community and speak to the public about their past lifestyles and what led to their eventual incarceration. ACCENT ON YOUTH's main aim is to deter youth from crime and to raise the question, "Why spend the best years of your life in jail?"

During the two days I spent in Cape Breton, I learned that Mr. EARL WARD is involved in many things, like Alcoholics Anonymous, Drug Dependency, Senior Citizen's activities, School functions, Church groups, and many other things of a social and helping-agency nature. Mr. Ward, with the help of many other people, has opened a Half-Way House for people with a drinking problem. He and his fellow workers are also working to get a Senior Citizen's Home on its way and there is little doubt in my mind that they'll accomplish this task too.

On the first day we were in Cape Breton, Mr. Ward drove one of the ACCENT ON YOUTH members a distance of more than a hundred miles in order that the inmate speaker could address the students at the

school. That evening he drove us over to Glaze Bay so we could meet with a town group.

I could go on telling you about ACCENT ON YOUTH and its activities but that is not my purpose in writing this article. What I'm trying to point out here is Community Involvement and the fact that if there were more people of the calibre of Mr. EARL WARD and his fellow workers working in every community, we would have a lower crime rate in our society. There is always room in any community for improvement but it can only be brought about by the efforts of people like Mr. Ward, and it is involvement in community activities that leads a community to a healthier and happier existence. The ACCENT ON YOUTH programme needs more Mr. Wards and more involvement in the community in order to help younger people to understand that prison is no place to spend your youth, nor is it a place to grow old in. The messages of people like Mr. EARL WARD and ACCENT ON YOUTH are based on concern for people, a concern that if taken to effective levels will prove a positive influence in the community and help in achieving a happier and better life for all.

Our society needs more Mr. EARL WARDS. We need them in every community so, if you have anything to offer, why not get out and become involved in helping your society become a better place for all of us to live in?

J D  **Burgess**
HARDWARE LIMITED
PAINT · SPORTING GOODS

13 CHURCH ST., AMHERST, N.S.

Ph. 667-8434

sports equipment and
TEAM uniform outfits

Distributors of CIL paints



Manpower and Immigration

EVERYBODY IS AN "EXPERT" WHEN IT comes to handling the needs of ex-inmates or parolees, according to DEAN PELTON. "There are those who feel such people should be treated like animals and others who contend that their problems are best sorted out on a psychiatrist's couch.... neither method makes much sense."

Dean is a man who can speak from experience. He has spent most of his last 24 years in the maximum and super maximum prisons of Canada.... all as a prisoner.

When he was released from Dorchester several years ago, his mind was made up, he was never going back as a prisoner.

For him things have changed a lot in the last few years. What started out as a temporary Local Initiatives Program grant has developed, through a Canada Manpower Outreach grant, into what Justin Sullivan, District Representative of the National Parole Service says is a practically irreplaceable service.

This project, suitably called "Let's Face It," has the delicate job of bringing a man out of prison back into society so that he ends a relatively happy, well-adjusted wage earner, going through life without forever looking back over his shoulder.

Mr. Pelton and three other ex-offenders working on the project seem to have a special understanding of these problems, having been through them themselves.

"Every convict fresh out of prison can't shake the feeling that everybody knows where he came from," explained Mr. Pelton, "He immediately returns to his old haunts and this usually is the first step on the road back to prison."

Dean and his associates talk with the convicts before they are out of prison. "Then when they are out for a day, they know where to go, because we are with them. We try to have them on the job by the second day they are out, along with a place to live."

Justin Sullivan of the National Parole Service explained "Let's Face It" services this way:

"The convict is released, and let's

say he finds a job digging ditches. He is up to his knees in mud, he's cold, he has no friends to turn to when work is over, and has a genuine hassle finding a place to live. The only place he can call home is the penitentiary. Normally, that is where he ends up again. "Let's Face It" handles those particular problems with a genuine compassion only one ex-convict can have for another."

But there are parolees who are not being rehabilitated and turn again to crime.

When asked about this, Mr. Pelton simply explained that practically none of these persons ever come to him and his people for help. "There is nothing we can do for a man who doesn't want help."

The personnel manager of a Moncton hotel explained hiring ex-convicts this way: "When parolees come here to work, they think we suspect them. Our experience has shown that these men, when trusted, have turned out to be our most valuable employees. They've got something to prove, and as far as I'm concerned, they're proving it."

An inmate of Dorchester Penitentiary put it this way: "When I get out I know "Let's Face It" is there, and without a whole lot of explanations, they understand me. Just because they are there helps me think I can make it again."

EDITORIAL NOTE: For further information: (902) 426-2908. Prisoners can contact their Range Officer or Classification man. * ** *** ****

Suggest Jaycee Unit Helps Inmates

by TED HALE -- NEW GLASGOW EVENING TIMES

STELLARTON -- DURING THE PAST WEEK-end a Jaycee hockey tournament was held here at Memorial Rink and among the teams participating included a team from the Jaycee unit at the Medium Security Institution in Springhill.

This reporter was cautioned by an official from the Medium Security Institution that only questions relative to the Jaycee unit activities were to be asked the members of the team.

So questions asked pertained to the activities and they were directed toward BERNARD KERVIN, President and BRUCE WALKER, immediate Past President of the unit. Both were very knowledgeable con-

cerning the units function and future plans.

They said this month they are presenting a variety show, and 75 per cent of the money raised will be used to purchase X-ray equipment for the All Saints Hospital in Springhill and 25 per cent will be utilized for other projects.

The variety show will be a two-hour presentation. One hour's entertainment will be by those in the Medium Security Institution and the second hour by invited artists, who are residents of the area surrounding the institution.

Plans are already being made to hold a dance in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce in the town. Fifty per cent of the funds raised from this project will be used to assist in the building of the rink facility in the town with the remainder going to the Chamber of Commerce to assist the organization in its community projects.

PROMOTE PROGRAMS

It was learned that the Jaycee unit in the Medium Security Institution is also involved in promoting programs that will assist the inmates in being rehabilitated and also to educate the public to accept them on release as citizens who deserve the right to live, participate and enjoy the privileges of our society.

The program now underway is referred to as an Encounter. It involves outsiders being requested to visit the institution and talk with the inmates.

Bernard said it is not surprising to learn there is a percentage of inmates who have lost contact with people on the outside. "These people who volunteer to come in can do much for the morale and attitude of this particular inmate."

Besides the activities directly involved with the institution the members of the Jaycee unit are continuing visits to schools in the province to talk to students on the fact that crime does not

pay. Bruce said that the three Ministers of Education in the Province of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have endorsed this program.

PRIME TARGET

One of the primary targets for the Jaycee unit now is their endeavor to have the law changed so that inmates in penal institutions will have the right to vote. The matter passed at the National Jaycee convention will also be receiving support from the Atlantic Provinces convention this spring.

Support from the Council of Churches in the province is also solicited and they are hopeful at the Atlantic Provinces level they will receive this support. Letters have already been sent to all members of Parliament and it has been brought up in the House. They are again hopeful their recommendation will receive the MP's support.

Another aspect of the work being carried out by the members of the unit is regular visits to the School for Boys in Shelburne County, Nova Scotia.

Both men said when they visit the school for boys they talk over problems they may be encountering and impress upon them that their lot in life is not meant to be one where they will spend time in penal institutions but to contribute to society and enjoy the privileges, rather than abuse them.

Bernard was not the least reluctant to say he was serving a 10-year sentence for two counts of armed robbery and Bruce a three-year term for forgery. They both have served two and a half years on their sentences.

Discussing the program by the Jaycee unit within the penal institution and outside, they agreed the organization is an important factor in molding the character of young men in the community.

IT'S TOUGH ON THE "OUTSIDE" TOO

Concern—An Organization For The Wives Of Prisoners

By ELIZABETH WILSON
Staff Writer

(Cape Breton Post)

"WHAT MANY PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE IS that while a man is doing time inside, his wife is doing hard time on the outside," says Brenda.

"It's like a death in the family," breaks in Karen. "When my son was sent away every member of my family felt the loss. I told this to the prosecutor, that it was like a death and he just laughed."

Both Brenda and Karen are members of a newly formed group in the Sydney area called Concern. The organization was formed to allow wives, mothers or girl friends of men sentenced to penal institutions in the Atlantic Provinces to get together to talk out their initial fears and help find solutions to mutual problems.

"In a lot of cases, when a husband is sent away, a woman will have guilt

feelings. She will begin to think along the lines, it must have been something I did and if only I had done this," said Darlene.

"Later you realize how ridiculous this is because you just can't control a person," said Brenda.

Concern meets every second Tuesday and so far the group has had two meetings. For a group of strangers who have been together for such a short time the women have surprisingly warmed up to each other rather quickly.

"I think it is because we needed desperately to talk to someone," explained Brenda. "We were nervous starting off the first meeting but we soon realized we had so much in common."

"Talking to one another we found not only did we share the concerns of having someone in prison but in many cases shared the same reason for his being there, alcohol."

"Alcohol is such a problem," agreed Darlene. "The bottle is just like a puppeteer controlling the whole family. The husband says to the wife, 'if you don't do this for me, I just might have a drink.' In effect it is blackmail."

"Yes," said Brenda, "alcoholism is the one physical illness which can ruin two lives."

Because of this common root of the problem Brenda and several others have also become involved in Al-Anon. Brenda's husband has joined the AA group in the Springhill Institution and she hopes when he is released they can put their training together and fight the alcoholic problem.

"I am handling my problems better now because I have admitted to myself that my husband was guilty. He also realizes he has done wrong. So based on the idea every one is entitled to one

mistake, I think we will make it when he gets out," she said.

This attitude is exactly what the Concern group is trying to foster in other members. Among its many aims is the encouraging of women to take an active role in the husband's parole and temporary absence applications by understanding the procedure, preparing the family for his release, and organizing employment opportunities for him.

The Concern group is a branch of a larger organization called Unison. This larger group consists of caseworkers who work through the various legal channels to help not only the families of offenders but offenders themselves. Unison has an office in Halifax as well as Sydney.

In this area the caseworkers go down to the courthouse each day and offer support to the women who suddenly find themselves alone.

"When the two women approached me," said Carol, "I was just hanging on to the pop machine. It was such a relief to have someone support me in the courtroom."

"I don't know what I would have done without this group," said Donna, who is 18 and has a new baby. "I would probably be still sitting in the house."

Concern not only helps the women to get out of the house and meet other people but it encourages them in finding employment or furthering their education by upgrading etc. as a means of becoming self-sufficient while the husband is incarcerated. The organization also guides the women in applying for financial assistance or legal help and arranges co-operative trips to Springhill and Dorchester institutions.

PHONE: 562-1267, 398 GEORGE STREET,
NIGHT: 562-5795 SYDNEY, Nova Scotia.

Dep't. of the Solicitor General

CANADIAN PENITENTIARY SERVICE TO STUDY DISSOCIATION

OTTAWA --THE HONOURABLE WARREN ALLMAND, Solicitor-General of Canada, announced today the appointment of a study group to look into the use of dissociation in federal penitentiaries.

Under the chairmanship of Dr. Jim Vantour, of Carleton University, the Study Group will carry out its examination of dissociation procedures in ten federal penitentiaries. The group members will start their visits early in May and expect to have their report completed by the end of October 1975.

Dissociation is the removal of an inmate from the general inmate population for two basic purposes: to protect certain types of inmates from harassment by other inmates (protective cus-

tody); to serve as a means of punishment for serious disciplinary offences (segregation).

Segregation is a disciplinary measure used as a last resort, after other less rigorous forms of punishment have been considered. Its desirability was, however, questioned by the Correctional Investigator, Ms. Inger Hansen, in her recent report to Solicitor-General Warren Allmand.

With this in mind, the study group will look into the use of dissociation at a medium and a maximum security institution in each of the Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and Pacific Regions, as well as at the maximum security Saskatchewan Penitentiary and the Mountain

Prison, near Agassiz, B.C.

The study Group will examine the usefulness of dissociation as a method of punishment, its effectiveness as a means of protecting inmates and the living conditions in both types of dissociation - protective and punitive - from the point of view of humane treatment and the effects of prolonged isolation.

The group members will then share their findings with the Correctional Investigator and make recommendations for the continuation or modification of existing dissociation procedures and suggest alternatives.

Dr. Vantour, chairman of the Study Group, is assistant professor of sociology at St. Patrick's College, Carleton University. The holder of a Ph.D. in sociology; he was assistant director of a Senate parole study that resulted in the publication of the book entitled

"Parole in Canada."

The other members of the group are Jean Lavoie, security project officer at the Canadian Penitentiary Service, in Ottawa, formerly assistant director of security at the Stony Mountain medium security institution in Manitoba; and Roger Fournier, parole officer with the National Parole Service in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The Study Group will also draw upon the expertise and experience of two other members of the Canadian Penitentiary Service. They are Dr. George Scott, director of the Ontario Regional Psychiatric Centre, in Kingston, and J.W. (Willie) Gibbs, Living Units and Human relations Division, in Ottawa, formerly assistant director of socialization at the Springhill medium security institution, in Nova Scotia.

Canadian Youth Research Project

WHAT DO YOU OFFER?

WHEN THE CANADIAN YOUTH RESEARCH Project was first conceived, it was with the purpose in mind of investigating the problems of those among our youth who appear to have difficulty functioning in our society. Members of this group are constantly being asked; "What do you as an individual have to offer?"

Now, while this question may not pose any problem for those who feel quite confident about themselves and their environment, for prisoners serving long terms the question is indeed a complex one, and demands much contemplation.

The author, reflecting on the activities of the criminal justice system over the past few years, feels that his experience enables him to shed some light on the problems facing youthful offenders as they pass through the maze that is the Canadian legal system. He feels too, that as he was himself a youthful offender, he has a rather concise idea of what thoughts and inhibitions haunt the mind of the youth as he is swept along from his arrest and through the courts, and ultimately to either acquittal or conviction and probation or imprisonment.

This is not to say that merely because one has experienced the unpleasantness of having been himself a youthful offender that he is by virtue of this fact alone qualified to assess and offer concrete solutions to the problems of Canadian youth today. Realizing this, the author applied himself to courses in criminology, penology, sociology, reli-

gion, as well as adult behaviour texts. These courses were embarked upon after the author had completed over sixty topics outlined in a law degree program from Blackstone.

Although the author is by no means an authority on the subjects mentioned above, he is possessed of a first hand knowledge that might possibly afford him some "insight" into the mind and soul of the youth who is an offender.

Given that the writer does have twenty-five years experience as a victim of the justice system, and a reasonably good academic background, the question could still be asked; "What do you have to offer?" This is, of course, quite understandable, and should be asked.

To answer such a query is indeed quite difficult especially on paper, yet I feel that I would have to say that it is my suffering; that is the only real thing that I have to offer the youthful offender; my suffering, my anguish and what led to the suffering. It is through suffering that I am able to approach my fellow man, my brother, and understand what he is experiencing. Not entirely, of course, but certainly to some significant degree. The fact that for me some wounds were healed over a long period of time, permits me to become to some greater or lesser degree, what Henri Nouwen termed "the wounded healer." Nouwen suggests that the person who has been wounded deeply, and made to suffer much, can become a source of healing

power, or a balm to his fellowman, if he becomes liberated enough from his former anguish and pain. My twenty-five years experience has led me to the point where I must, and do subscribe to this theory. Because of this I would unhesitatingly suggest to you that we do, all of us, have something to offer; something of worth, something of value; something real and not to be found in any text book or lecture hall.....suffering.

The freedom or opportunity to share your feelings with someone is not ever present. Indeed, it is often, too often, a very difficult thing to achieve. People erect barriers and ward off all who would enter their minds, their hearts, their souls.....their private sanctuaries as it were. 'Keep out', they seem to shout; 'I do not want you entering my being and cluttering it up with hypocritical and dishonest flotsam and jetsam; you have already hurt me too deeply!'

This is so often the situation we face when approaching the youthful offender. He, (or she) has had your 'good for him' treatment, or 'this hurts me more than it does you' treatment. What the youthful offender needs and cries out for..... what anyone or all of us, at some time or another requires is the knowledge that he (or she) is really wanted, really cared for..... really LOVED.

John David Prince

EDITOR'S NOTE: J.D.P. is a lifer in Ontario and one of the founders of the C.Y.R.P.

As follow-up on his thesis, Viktor Frankl is an author who is using the same basic premise in his works on Logotherapy.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS CONS

ATTENTION TO GRIEVANCES PROMISED

by Brenda MacKenzie
of the Star-Phoenix

PRINCE ALBERT - A PEACEFUL PROTEST of 275 inmates at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary ended Friday night, after a 16 member negotiating team ended two days of talks with prison officials, with the promise of correction of some long standing grievances.

The potentially violent situation began Thursday afternoon when prisoners apparently agreed to reject dinner as a protest against conditions. Later they refused to return to their cells from their recreation period.

An ad hoc committee of 16 prisoners was elected to bargain with acting prison director Jim O'Sullivan until 5 A.M. Friday with reporters present. Inmates followed a normal schedule Friday, except that Mr. O'Sullivan made Friday a non-working day for the inmates. Talks resumed at 6 P.M. Friday and prisoners watching a movie in the recreation area returned as scheduled to their cells at 10 P.M. after the inmate's committee talks concluded.

The two day protest was not marred by any act of violence by the prisoners or retaliation by the guards.

Major points of contention resolved Friday:

--A joint brief from inmates and prison administration will be sent to the Solicitor-General requesting him to

reactivate Con-Force, a program enabling inmates to work in the community during the day.

--The prison director will take sole responsibility for imposing restrictive diets while men are in solitary confinement. A review of the entire disciplinary procedure at the penitentiary and of the cases of men now on restricted diets will be made.

--Men will have extended exercise privileges on weekends, reducing the time they spend locked in their cells, beginning April 5.

--Visiting and correspondence privileges will be reviewed.

--Mr. O'Sullivan has promised to review job grading.

--Mr. O'Sullivan has promised to look into psychiatric and medical services.

A list of offenders, particularly young offenders, who inmates feel do not belong in a maximum security penitentiary, will be submitted by inmates to Mr. O'Sullivan for review.

Prisoner committee members talked with Mr. O'Sullivan in a spirit of cooperation and trust. The meeting, chaired by James Greenlaw was run like any organized meeting, complete with typed agenda, in the visiting room at the penitentiary. After a short break midway through discussions, Mr. O'Sullivan guaranteed reform, and his statement was greeted by applause.

The committee members said they were relieved to take concrete proposals back to the prison community. The meeting ended about 10 P.M. with congratulations on both sides.

Present were invited reporters, lawyer Cline Harradence, members of the Prince Albert Citizens Advisory Committee inmates had invited. Bill Kamche and regional Canadian Penitentiary Service director Paul Oleniuk were also present.

Con-Force, described by both sides as an "unqualified success" when it was in operation for 16 months in 1972-73, was ended when the Solicitor-General informed the warden he did not have the authority to run the program.

The warden has the authority to grant three-day passes, Mr. O'Sullivan said, and in order to operate the program he had to issue a pass for Monday to Wednesday and a second pass for Thursday to Friday. The Solicitor-General stopped the practice even though the program of sending inmates to work in the community was unblemished by any escape attempt, he said.

Discipline, as one inmate remarked, has been most arbitrary.

"March 17, 1974, you were found hanging from the cell bars and therefore causing disturbance," one inmate quoted an official charge against him. Chairman James Greenlaw said one officer had charged 57 prisoners with violations.

Inmates complained that prisoners were put in segregation, "the penthouse," for indefinite periods of time, and placed on restricted diets -- a punishment they said was "cruel and unusual."

Prisoners said some inmates are left in solitary confinement for several months, and come out unable to rejoin the prison population.

"It has a dangerous psychological effect. After 30 days, they can't live out in the population: they only feel secure in a dark, dingy cell," one inmate said.

As another inmate explained, you have no one to talk to. "There is nothing in the cell but a wooden bed and a bar of soap to keep you company."

Mr. O'Sullivan promised he would view the problems of people being placed in solitude indefinitely, that only he would impose a restrictive diet as punishment, and that he will place some games materials for diversion in solitary.

Inmates said blow-up situations like this one and other incidents -- slashing, fights and disturbances -- are caused by boredom.

The worst time they said, is on the weekends. On Saturdays and Sundays, inmates are locked in their cells from 4 P.M. to 8 A.M. Prisoners requested and were granted the privilege of walking in the "range" or corridor in front of their cells from 6 to 10 P.M.

One of the characteristics of prison life is the importance minor details have in a prisoner's life. Concern was expressed that during visiting periods, guards will not permit an inmate to put his arm around a girl-friend. Inmates protested the delay of up to an hour before guards get around to escorting them to meet waiting visitors.

Inmates protested bitterly that they are forced to keep their hair cut one inch below the collar.

Mr. O'Sullivan promised to relax these regulations.

Finally, prisoners protested arbitrary down-grading of their job classification. Prisoners enter the institution at "level one" which means they are paid 70 cents a day for whatever work they do, if any, at the institution. Every three months of unblemished record permits them to be advanced a level, up to level four when they are paid \$1 a day with which they must buy all personal effects such as soap, shampoo and cigarettes.

* * * * *

HIGH PRAISE FOR INMATES

(The Star-Phoenix)

THE PRINCE ALBERT COUNCIL OF THE John Howard Society of Saskatchewan hopes that the recent incident at the Saskatchewan Penitentiary will not be quickly forgotten by the general public. It is too important. It could become known as a major turning point in the much-needed reform of our penal system in Canada.

The situation was termed by the press as "potentially explosive." However, we feel that a "potentially explosive" situation exists in any penitentiary in Canada every day of the week, every week of the year, and that situation exists basically for the reasons brought out by the inmates during their negotiations with the officials.

During the past several months the John Howard Society has expressed a great deal of concern to the Solicitor-General over many of the very same items that the inmates raised. Our success has been very limited and we have received a great deal of bureaucratic double-talk in reply.

We have on several occasions, raised

the matter of Con-Force and young offenders in prison. As late as three weeks ago the Solicitor-General brushed aside our requests to have Con-Force re-established, saying that current regulations did not allow it.

Con-Force was probably the most successful program in any penitentiary and a tremendous tool for rehabilitation. There was never one failure. It originated with inmates. We contended that regulations should be changed to allow it to continue, but the bureaucrats in Ottawa thought otherwise.

On many occasions we have expressed a great deal of concern over medical facilities and treatment in penitentiaries but officialdom is always slow to act.

Recently the inmates acted, and they did so by staging a demonstration in the most responsible manner possible. Few demonstrations "outside" are conducted as responsibly. They did not make demands. They wanted only to negotiate and bring to the attention of the public their very real concerns.

The inmates who were negotiating proved, as we have always contended, that any man will act responsibly, given an opportunity.

One of their main concerns was for the young offender. Maybe the public will wake up now to the fact that Canada throws all types of offenders into a penitentiary and this very fact creates more "criminals" and causes more crime than society is willing to admit.

The president of the Saskatchewan John Howard Society is writing the Solicitor-General to express full support for the inmate negotiating committee, and the action taken by Mr. O'Sullivan.

But much greater support is needed. We would like to see the Solicitor-General flooded with letters from citizens of this area and province, expressing support for the results of the negotiations.

If we, as citizens, fail to express support now we could seriously regret it in the not-too-distant future.

Public concern could bring about much-needed reform in our penal system and lead to a reduction in crime. We will all benefit from such a reduction.

Prince Albert ***** JIM MARTYN

YOUTHS IN PRISON CONCERN INMATES
The Star-Phoenix

PRINCE ALBERT (Staff) -- "This is what I do not like to see. It hurts me, you know," the concerned inmate said, pointing to the 17 year-old they brought

into the room.

"That is the boy I was talking about, the one I said looked like he should be playing with marbles at home instead of being at this penitentiary," another inmate said.

Clarence Finlay, admitted to the penitentiary when he was 16 for a break-and-enter offense in Edmonton, still has 18 months to go in his sentence. It is his first jail term.

Clarence said he was part-way through Grade 11 when he was arrested, and has not been allowed -- for reasons he does not understand -- to finish his schooling at the penitentiary.

Asked if he had a lawyer in court, he said "Yes, but he didn't help me too much." Clarence said he now amused himself by playing poker.

The prisoners' committee brought Clarence to the negotiating room to illustrate its concern with young offenders placed in the maximum security institution. Clyde Harradence, Prince Albert lawyer invited by the inmates to attend the sessions, said the number one complaint was the 17 to 19 year olds were being "indoctrinated into the psychology of the joint."

The real concern of the inmates is to have the young offenders out of the maximum security institution so they can be rehabilitated, he said.

Mr. Harradence also said that anyone who looks at sentences of prisoners can tell by the length of time they are serving, in which jurisdiction they were tried. He said prisoners in adjoining cells may be serving remarkably different sentences for an almost identical offense.

A main request of the prisoners during the talks was to have some offenders "reclassified" so they can be placed in medium or low-security institutions.

Acting prison director Jim O'Sullivan has promised to review a list of 200 names of prisoners for reclassification. One inmate pointed out the majority of 17 to 19-year olds at the penitentiary were charged with escape but he said they did not saw through bars or climb walls, but just walked away from work camp.

"One even got a ride with an RCMP officer," he said.

"Even under those circumstances," he said, "escape is a serious offense and the boys end up in penitentiary."

"Six months later, they will stick a knife right through you."

CRIME PREVENTION AND PENAL REFORM

'ACCENT ON YOUTH':

THIS INMATE PROGRAM WHICH IS DIRECTLY affiliated with the Springhill Jaycee Unit is also being carried out in other Canadian Penitentiaries, including Dorchester where it is called Youth Speak.

The goal of this program is to show the young people we speak to how we became involved with crime and our eventual imprisonment, hoping to prevent these young people from following in our footsteps and being subjected to such a degrading, abnormal way of life. This program also gives the individual inmate an opportunity to look at himself and see what he can do for his future in becoming a law abiding citizen. Besides the inmate understanding and changing his past illegal habits, he creates a self confidence in himself by being a capable public speaker.

The Springhill ACCENT ON YOUTH program presently has 35 members, but only 15 members are able to give their presentation. An example of the criteria needed for a presentation is that the inmate be able to speak to a large audience, giving a truthful history of his life and what led to his imprisonment, what he has done for himself while in prison, and what he hopes to do with his future. A general outline for his presentation is available and any help he may need getting his presentation together is available from the present speakers.

The membership of ACCENT ON YOUTH invites and encourages any inmate to try this challenge to help himself and young people.

Yours in A.O.Y.,
Tom McIlvena,
Director.

C.A.C. Report

ABOUT A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, THE Commissioner of Penitentiaries directed that each institution in the country would have a committee of citizens to represent the Community at-large and the prison population. It was directed that these committees would have up to ten members and that they would act as liaison people.

In the year-and-a-bit the Citizen's Advisory Committee has existed at this institution, they have been concerning themselves with getting to know what kind of service they can render, and due to the out-of-the-wayness of Springhill Institution, they have had some difficulty in building a strong and committed committee.

Two months ago, the C.A.C. asked that a group of prisoners attend one of their meetings in order that they could find out first-hand what kinds of things we think they should be concerning themselves with. A group of fifteen from the prison population attended the meeting and aired their views.

"Not enough Community involvement," "Not enough citizen participation in the affairs of prisoners," "Not enough positive public relations on behalf of prisoners" were the kinds of things brought out at that meeting; and the Citizen's

Advisory Committee resolved to get more into the possibilities inherent in these issues.

An Inside Committee was formed, made up of a prisoner representative from each programme in the institution, and two of these members were voted in as Liaison Members to the Citizen's Advisory Committee, which meets here every month. The two Liaison Members voted in were DICK HUSKINS and BOB EBY.

Since that time, the Citizen's Advisory Committee has met twice and have begun to demonstrate their interest in the various aspects of what this committee could be doing. They are working at beefing up the Committee by enlisting the membership of new people from the Outside community, and are interested in learning as much as they can as quickly as possible about the kinds of services they can offer. It is this writer's feeling that they are beginning to understand that the prisoners of this institution need outside help and that we are seriously interested in demonstrating the fact that we have skills and concerns that make us valuable to the Community.

A few of the issues they have concerned themselves with over the past

two months are: recommending that the "no consumption of alcoholic beverages" clause on the T.L.A. forms be removed. The reasoning being that it is unreasonable to expect a man to not have a sociable drink when he is out on T.L.A. They are recommending that a clause be inserted in place of the above, stating that prisoners on T.L.A. remain sober.

Another area they have concerned themselves with is the issue of T.L.A. clothing; they are checking with other institutions to learn of the possibilities of our being permitted to wear our own clothing when leaving the institution on T.L.A.'s.

They have also looked into the feasibility of bringing more people into the prison in an attempt to acquaint more Outsiders with us; and in that way, it is hoped we will be able to overcome some of the hostile attitudes that exist in this area towards prisoners in general. Once all the alternative procedures for this type of involvement have been looked at, they will be acting on their observations.

They have been doing some scouting around to obtain speaker-engagements for the ACCENT ON YOUTH PROGRAMME and expect some response in the very near future.

Dr. Ann Kennedy of the Provincial School for the Deaf is looking at ways and means to utilize some of the talents of

the prisoners here to the benefit of the inmates at the School for the Deaf and the C.N.I.B. A project is now in the planning stages and will be reported on as soon as the final plans are complete.

Each month the C.A.C. will be addressed by a representative from a program in the institution to familiarize them with what is happening and what needs they might provide.

They have also looked into the \$1.50 per meal rate for people out on T.L.A.'s and have been advised that a recommendation has already been made to raise the rate.

So, what seems to be going down is that the Citizen's Advisory Committee at this institution is looking for ways to be useful and informed. And, this in itself is positive for it allows the prison population to have an input into what goes down. If you have any suggestions pertaining to areas we could use help in, get in touch with DICK HUSKINS in NUMBER TEN UNIT or BOB EBY in NUMBER NINE. Both men will be pleased to listen to your suggestions. There is also an INSIDE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE in whatever programme you might be involved in, and he will be glad to relay your questions or suggestions.

B.E.



Chapman Bros. Ltd.

FULL FLAVOURED BEVERAGES

FRANCHISE BOTTLERS
OF SQUIRT, PEPSI COLA
AND 7-UP

Squirt

PEPSI-COLA

DIET
PEPSI-COLA

7up

KRIBER

INDUSTRIAL PARK, 667-8445
AMHERST

Unit Report: No 8

by JOE MacNEILL

"IN THE SUMMERTIME, WHEN ALL THE TREES
AND LEAVES ARE GREEN...."

Summer has finally arrived and the big thing in NUMBER EIGHT seems to be to get out of the unit and lie on that green grass and soak up some of that summer sun. A lot of guys are getting a nice tan and putting on a few muscles by working out on the weights. The outside yard has been open now for a month or so and the guys in our unit are taking advantage of the facilities we have available to us out there; handball, horse shoes, softball, and running around the track, to name a few.

This is the first chance we've had to congratulate NUMBER NINE for taking the Floor Hockey championships. I'm afraid they beat us four straight in the finals but I must admit they deserved to win because they had a better team. Hats off to DONNY LEROY and the NUMBER NINE gang.

Our unit softball team is running away from the pack so far in the young season. After winning all four exhibition games, we took our first six regular season games, some by pretty convincing scores. Our top three hitters so far are yours truly, JOE MacNEILL, NELSON (You can't keep a good Newfie down) LAWLOR, and ALAN "STRETCH" BORRIE. We're getting some good pitching from GERRY PAUL and DENNY STATES. I hope we can keep it up.

There are a lot of new faces around the unit these days as people keep coming and going. A few lucky guys made their paroles and lots of luck to them out on the Street. The farm camp is claiming quite a few guys and I hope they have a nice time up there this summer.

We've got a new Classification Officer who moved up from the Recreation Department to handle the caseloads of half of our unit population. I hope he can do a good job and help some of us solve our problems. We need all the qualified help we can get.

One of our ballplayers has been doing a lengthy amount of cell time and I, for one, will be glad when he's finished so I can get my 8-Track back full time. He's been having a hard time sneaking in and out of his drum for coffee breaks but he's just about finished now.

GLEN GOSBY finally made it outside the wall for the first time in a long time. He was pretty excited about his one day T.A. to Halifax, and I don't blame him. A lot of guys were glad to see him get out, even if it was just for the day. He must have noticed a lot of

changes outside and I hope he doesn't have to wait as long for the next one.

Our Unit Discussion Group is still going strong and a number of us have finished the 12 weeks required to receive our diploma. I understand two of the newer members of the group, VINCE BEZANSON and PAUL BUSHFAN will soon have enough weeks in, so let's keep it going.

GORDIE WILSON's going to miss his younger brother, Johnny, who is being paroled to Halifax on July 4th. Johnny says he's going to bring some Halifax teams in to play our PHOENIX ALL-STARS, so I guess we'll see him again before the summer's over.

We've got a new Unit Chairman now in the person of PHILIP WHYNOTT. I hope he can get a few card tournaments and bingo games going to liven up the unit a bit.

BUTCH WEATHERBIE is our new Inmate Committee member. He's taking KERRY BEAVIS's place, another guy who's being paroled to Halifax. Kerry's going into the landscaping business and we hope he does all right.

MURRAY and MARVIN are going to be back from their unfair exile to the Adjustment Centre, and it's going to be nice to have them back. I hope the administration is satisfied that they won't be a bad influence to the good order of the institution. They're two regulars on our ball team and we need them back.

REDFORD YOUNG has a problem; he's just dying to know the name of the cove just below Southern Head Beach. Can anybody help to relieve his anxiety by giving him the answer?

GILBERT MORGAN and KEVIN RAWLEY made over \$50 each two days in a row on the Tree Planting Project at Scott Paper. I guess they don't have too hard a time bending over, to plant the trees, I mean.

TIMMY BOONE and ALAN BORRIE are the two new Sports Reps for the unit. I hope they see we get our fair share of everything we're supposed to. I think they're doing a good job so far.

Our poor colour t.v. is still waiting to be taken to Halifax for some necessary repairs. "No available transportation" has been the excuse we've been hearing for three months now. I hope it gets found sometime soon....

Hey! CARL MAIN got unit approval for a three day T.A. -- isn't that something! GERRY RUSHTON is making a strong bid to continue his education on the street this fall; he had a one day T.A. to Fredericton to see about it and was accepted for September registration. I hope the powers to be see fit to let him attend, because he's been working

hard at his courses and with the help of a good teacher has accomplished a lot.

Another interesting fact that was brought out at one of our range meetings a while ago is that PETE STUBBARD always wears his hat when he eats in a

pizza parlour....

To keep you thinking I'm going to leave you with this profound observation: "Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

No 9, No 9, No 9.....

by GARY BROOKS

It's time once again to report the latest happenings in our unit. The activities have been down to a minimum, but with everyone managing to keep busy some way or another. This is my first attempt at submitting the report for UNIT NINE, so please bear with me.

The major event occurred approximately five weeks ago, when disaster struck "C" range, with fire causing extensive water and smoke damage. The boys on "C" range deserve a lot of credit for their efforts in undertaking and following-through on this major clean-up operation. The Range has recuperated from the mishap, with painting nearing final completion.

NUMBER NINE has a Workforce group that leaves the institution from time to time to work at various community projects; the latest was to do repairs at the ROTARY CLUB CAMP, Camp Tidnish, just outside of Amherst.

Darts are going stronger than ever, with the inmates challenging the Unit staff and vice versa. We send an invitation out to Unit 8, 10, and 11, for any competition they may have to offer.

UNIT NINE cooperated well with the stock-taking at our institutional library. There were only three books lost

during the entire year -- from a unit population of almost one hundred.

The bingo sponsored by the inmate committee was well attended by our boys, and some of the guys have taken the initiative in starting a few card games during the evenings, while others are playing checkers, chess, and cribb.

Our ball team has been in a slump from the start of the season, but by the results of the last game, they seem to have surfaced from the pit they've been in, by defeating UNIT TEN by a score of 17 to 11. At the last team meeting CHARLIE (CHUCK) TURNER was elected as Coach and Manager. The boys have great confidence in him and wish him the best of luck with his new challenge. GARY BROOKS was elected Team Captain after MARTIN SMITH resigned in order that he could take up new duties as an umpire.

There isn't much to report in UNIT NINE, but hopefully, when press time rolls around again, we will have a few new activities that will deserve mentioning.

So this time next month have your DIAL on NINE for the up-to-date happenings in and around our unit.

No 10 TALK

by AL PIGEON

THE USUAL PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN THIS column has been the reporting of the sports events to-date, but due to my only recently arriving at this institution, with rather short notice to have this article written, my comments will be limited.

ALAN SAUNDERS and BILL GILLESPIE have been appointed Sports Representatives for the Unit. Their first major task was to promote more participation from the Unit residents to play baseball. Meetings regarding this matter have been called and as a result a greater number of practices have been scheduled. Good luck, guys!

MIKE MIFFLIN announced the arrival of a limited number of new dart sets. These will be issued on a first-come first-served basis.

July 1st brought a few events such as the Tug-of-War which we lost to UNIT ELEVEN and a Volleyball tournament that we lost to UNIT NINE.

Martial Law came into effect covering the 24 hour period from 11:00 o'clock p.m. July 1st until 11:00 p.m. July 2nd. Some have been complaining about the "mind games" being played and I was curious how they felt about "war games."

THE SCENE AT ELEVEN

by Mark MacKenzie

INSTEAD OF BEING DULL AND MONOTONOUS around here, as is the usual fare for the day, NUMBER ELEVEN has been bouncing and lively for the past couple of weeks. I might add though, it has not all been for the best.

The first prominent incident to come to mind was the rather ugly racial flare-up that occurred a couple of weeks ago, in which numerous people from this unit played prominent parts. I am glad to say that, for the most part, everything seems to have worked itself out. Let's all hope it remains cool.

Another incident occurred just this past week during an illegal work stoppage by institutional staff. During this time we were locked in our cells and a number of people became very restless and decided to create their own forms of amusement, to overcome the monotony. One such diversion was the lighting of numerous fires around the Unit and even one in an empty cell. Though the former

were relatively harmless, the latter could have become quite nasty as the cell and other parts of the Range were just freshly painted. It was quickly put out by our Guardians in Brown.

While all of this was going on, people forgot the fact that the institution might not see all of this with such a friendly eye. As a result, I am sorry to say, the unit is now short the company of three of its inhabitants and many others are finding themselves doing cell time.

Speaking of painting cells; I am happy to announce that at long last, after months (would you believe years?) of waiting for our unit to be painted, it is finally happening. I might add, it's about time, the old place sure needed it in places. Mmmmm... now if they would only carry out the rest of the needed repairs....

That's about it from your NUMBER ELEVEN reporter. See you next time!

GROUND HOCKEY

by Terry Rousson

THE SEASON SLOWLY CAME TO AN END; BUT there was still one game left to be played, and that was the championship game between NUMBER TEN and ELEVEN units.

It was decided by both teams that the game would be played one evening after supper. The referees were rounded up and the game started promptly at six.

After about five minutes of play in the first period, NUMBER TEN opened up the scoring for a lead of 1-0. It was a hard and close-checking first period, until the last few minutes of play, when CONRAD PLEASANT tied it up 1-1.

The second period went scoreless because of the close checking of ART NELLIGAN and JUNIOR MARSHALL. I have to say that NUMBER TEN was just as tough and played a close checking game while looking for the right breaks.

Even with the play-making of JOE JACKSON, and CONRAD PLEASANT speeding down right wing, NUMBER ELEVEN couldn't get a goal. NUMBER TEN stayed with ELEVEN step for step and the third period went scoreless.

The goal tending on both sides was of great value to the teams, with their

fantastic saves and a few friendly goal posts; the game ended in a 1-1 tie.

It was then decided by both teams that the overtime sudden-death period be played right away. Both teams took a five minute rest; then the referees called them to the center of the yard and the overtime period was on its way.

Both teams kept playing their same style of hockey; it was close-checking all the way and both were waiting for the right break.

It wasn't until about the five minute mark of the overtime period that TERRY ROUSSON intercepted a pass and scored -- unassisted -- to end the game.

The ground hockey championship had been decided, with NUMBER ELEVEN winning by a score of 2-1 in overtime.

Overall, it was a hard-fought season by all teams and all participants deserve a "well done" acknowledgement of fine playing.

In closing, and in the way of a reminder: if you win say little; and, if you lose, say less.

* * * * *

SPORTS/OLIVER

PHOENIX ALL-STARS

Springhill prison is this year represented in the Border Fastball League by the PHOENIX ALL-STARS. There are four teams in the '75 league including the ALL-STARS, KELLY'S GULF OILERS from Springhill, and two teams from Amherst, OLAND'S LEGIONNAIRES and the SUPER M'S.

The league has an 18 game scheduled series, and will play under the O.A.S.A. (Ontario Amateur Softball Association) rules. The Phoenix team is composed solely of prisoners from Springhill Penitentiary.

Paroles and other events cause frequent turnover on the prison team. In view of this phenomenon the Border League executive has allowed the All-Stars an open roster to pick up new players when required.

During the first few scheduled games a number of prospective players tried out at different defensive posts. This activity was termed "experimental" and was short lived. At this writing the team is fairly stabilized.

Regular league games are played on Monday evenings at the home diamond and all away games occur on Thursday nights at either Springhill or Amherst.

The Phoenix All-Stars played six games prior to coming up with a win in league play. This win was a needed up for the morale of the team and everyone is now playing harder.

Some of the best ballplayers will soon be leaving on parole and transfers. JOHN WILSON is going home in early July. The club here may see him again if he comes in with his hometown team to play an exhibition game. Our best little Indian fielder, FRANK SAPPIER, is also leaving. The Farm Annex at Dorchester will claim him for a short time and then he'll be heading home. Both Frankie and Johnnie are fine people as well as good ballplayers. No doubt the guys here will miss these two friends and teammates when they're gone.

An example of good teamwork is the BORRIE/MacNEILL combination at shortstop and second base respectively. These men are both veteran players and a stabilizing factor on the Phoenix team.

ROLAND VADNAIS is another strong and hard working member of the team. He is versatile and can be expected to hold up his end at almost any position on the ball club. When Roland broke his finger a few weeks ago at Amherst we thought it would be a while before he could play again, but not so. A week later he was playing the outfield in one game and then first base in another. Now, two weeks later he is back again catching.

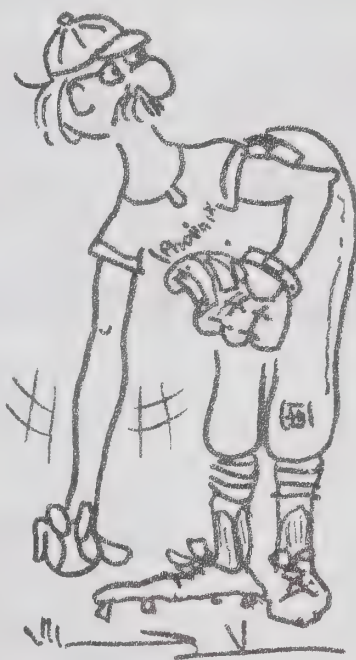
GERRY PAUL is the regular Pitcher for the Phoenix All-Stars. Gerry earns the confidence and respect of the team by coming through with some fine pitching and ballplaying.

Backing up Gerry are: Eddie Hibbert, Allen Borrie, Junior Marshall, Joe MacNeill, Lawrence Hall, Gary Wedge, Tommy Boutillier, Joe Toney, Chris Hebert, Roland Vadnais, Nelson Lawlor, Ernest Bowser, Floyd Kinney, Denny States, John Wilson, Frank Sappier, Joe Dennis, and Frank Oliver.

DOUG KENT is the Chief Ump'ire and CHUCK PARNELL is the Statistician. ANDY BROWN is our man on bats and water.

The Coach is that 6'10" kid on shortstop, ALLEN BORRIE. During games or practices Al is out there yelling at someone with criticism and support. You'd better work up a sweat and drive it all the way through practises to stay in the good graces of this guy. Al was picked up as the Coach because of his knowledge of the finer points of the game. He has a good selection of concocted practise techniques up his long sleeve, also.

JOE MacNEILL is the solid-built man on second base and also the team Captain this year. Joe seems to make it all look pretty easy out there during a game; meanwhile, behind the smile lurks the veteran fastballer always working



hard both mentally and physically anticipating the next play.

The Manager, Frank Oliver, delegates responsibility as much as is practically possible to the Coach, Captain and other capable people on the ball club.

"The objective is to learn teamwork, and co-operation," he says. "If we aim at playing well together as a team rather than at winning games then I believe we will win games too. Winning a game is only the effect of playing well together."

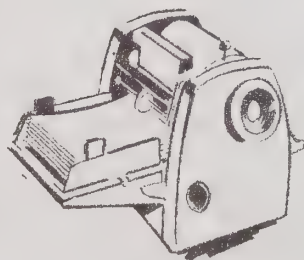
REAL LIFE FUNNIES



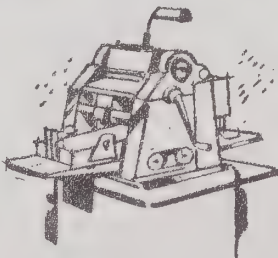
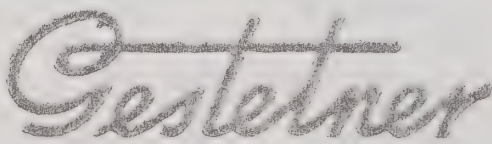
Sales and Service

SUPPLIERS OF FINE
DUPLICATING AND
OFFSET EQUIPMENT

COMPLETE RANGE
OF COLOURS IN
STENCIL & OFFSET
DUPLICATING PAPER
AND COVER STOCK



-Coast to Coast-



BOOKS

FICTION REVIEW BY FRANK OLIVER

JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL IS THE name of a short words and pictures story of the peculiar life of a certain seagull. It's a parable using Jonathan's experiences to give mortals an idea about individual freedom and inherent greatness. Greatness and freedom, perhaps in the sense of inner harmony, identity, purpose and peace of mind, which may accrue from being true to Self.

The story of Jonathan's life unfolded in the mind of a young man named Richard Bach, one fine day as he was strolling down Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles. Richard Bach is a pilot and loves to fly in both the physical and metaphysical planes. He has written a few other books, two of which are BI-PLANE and STRANGER TO THE GROUND.

People who know only about a man like Richard Bach are in the habit of pointing and saying, "reclusive, strange, eccentric, does strange things" or "is too quiet, a weirdo," and he becomes a focus for gossip. They use the same kinds of adjectives to describe Peter Fonda or David Carradine.

Jonathan Livingston Seagull was subjected to the same kind of riff. Everyone knows that seagulls do not devote themselves to learning to fly at speeds of hundreds of miles per hour. Seagulls, according to Hoyle, hang around wharves and boat harbours, garbage dumps and penitentiaries; they are supposed to follow boats and shriek and fight over scraps of food. Many groups of creatures conjure up and maintain their own mores, taboos, superstitions and crystalized ways of doing things; they impose limitations on what they can

do. In one group of creatures it's all on one level; you know, work, eat, sex, sleep, be entertained, make money and die, etc. But, there are misfits in any social group -- the ones who seek something more: a higher principle or purpose; follow their own star; their inner conviction, vision, dream or inspiration. These are the ones who work things out differently. Jonathan Livingston Seagull is such a one as this.

He's a strange bird, to the timid and unadventurous ones who find security in the group and hold on vehemently to concepts, traditions and beliefs and never thinking, speaking or doing other than what the group does. For Jonathan, there is something more to life, and he strives for assimilation with his ideal; testing himself, experimenting with different ideas and ways of doing things. During the course of events in a life like his, he is eventually disowned by the flock. He becomes an outcast and is hated by the elders, when he demonstrates his new abilities and tries to convince them of the wonderful things they can all learn to do. He is a beautiful outcast though; a seeker, a learner, one who needs to know, to understand, to do.

Jonathan's problems, his high ideal, the course his life takes, and the interesting seagulls he meets, are all woven into a little story that can be found in the fiction section of your library. If you read this far through this review, you will probably enjoy reading this book. You may want to read it over more than once, slower each time, and reflect upon it.

UNISON

Sydney

Halifax

'Working with the female offender'

FROM TIME TO TIME, THE COMMUNICATOR WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO OUR READERS LISTS OF PUBLICATIONS DEALING WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND RELATED AREAS OF GENERAL INTEREST. THIS MONTH'S LIST WAS PROVIDED BY The Fortune Society, A NEW YORK BASED ORGANIZATION RUN BY EX-CONVICTS, DEDICATED TO THE ERADICATION OF THE INHERENT INEQUITIES FOUND IN THE COURTS AND PRISONS. THE FORTUNE NEWS IS A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, FREE TO PRISONERS AND FREEMEN ALIKE (SPONSORSHIPS ARE SOLICITED FROM THE LATTER), AND IS PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY AND AVAILABLE ON A FREE SUBSCRIPTION BASIS THROUGH THE ADDRESS BELOW

FORTUNE SOCIETY MAIL ORDER BOOKS

The following books of interest can be purchased by mail from the Fortune Society. Listed are the books and prices, to which you should add \$.35 postage and handling costs. Send orders to the Fortune Society, 29 East 22 Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.

PAPERBACKS

KIND AND UNSUAL PUNISHMENT by Jessica Mitford \$1.95

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X \$1.25

BEYOND THE WALL, poetry by Trenton State prisoners \$1.00

MANCHILD IN THE PROMISED LAND by Claude Brown \$1.25

LETTERS FROM ATTICA by Sam Melville \$1.95

DOWN THESE MEAN STREETS by Piri Thomas \$1.25

CRIMES WITHOUT VICTIMS by Edwin Schur \$1.95

FORTUNE AND MEN'S EYES (a play) by John Herbert \$2.95

HOWARD STREET by Nathan Herd \$2.95

NIGHT by Elie Wiesel \$1.25

IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY/ WAR RESISTERS IN PRISON by Dr. Willard Gaylin \$1.95

THE CRIME OF PUNISHMENT by Dr. Karl Menninger \$1.95

IF THEY COME IN THE MORNING by Angela Davis \$1.25

FUNERAL RITES by Jean Genet \$1.50

BLOOD IN MY EYE by George Jackson \$1.50

A DOCTOR AMONG THE ADDICTS by Nat Hentoff \$2.95

POLICE POWER by Paul Chevigny \$1.95

MOTION TO BE DENIED by John Shultz \$3.95

PAPILLON by Henri Charriere \$1.95

I'm O.K., YOU'RE O.K. by Dr. Harris \$1.95

GIDEON'S TRUMPET by Anthony Lewis \$1.95

THE WRETCHED OF THE EARTH by Franz Fanon \$1.75

FANON (A biography) by Peter Geismar \$1.95

MALCOLM X SPEAKS by Malcolm X \$1.50

ATTICA, THE McKAY COMMISSION REPORT \$2.25

CONVERSATION WITH ELDRIDGE CLEAVER by Lee Lockwood \$1.95

ON THE YARD by Malcolm Braly \$1.75

BEING BUSTED by Leslie Fiedler \$1.95

THE GREAT CONSPIRACY TRIAL by Jason Epstein \$1.95

MIRACLE OF THE ROSE by Jean Genet \$1.95

LAW AGAINST THE PEOPLE by Robert Lefcourt \$2.45

SOUL ON ICE by Eldridge Cleaver \$2.95

THE RAPE by Robert Lamb \$1.50

CRIMINAL SENTENCES: LAW WITHOUT ORDER by Marvin Frankel \$2.95

PRISONS edited by Gerald Deindward \$2.95

KILLER: A JOURNAL OF MURDER by Thomas Gaddis and James O. Long \$1.25

THE MUGGING by Morton Hunt \$1.75

DISCRETIONARY JUSTICE by Kenneth Culp Davis \$2.45



STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE (A report by the American Friends Service Committee) \$2.95

ATTICA (a pamphlet) \$1.35

THE CONNECTION, a play by Jack Gelber \$1.75

SERPICO by Peter Maas \$1.75

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Inevitability of Caprice and Mistake by Charles L. Black Jr. \$1.95

IN COLD BLOOD by Truman Capote \$1.50

THE VICTIM AND HIS CRIMINAL by Stephen Schaffer \$2.95

THE SAME OF PRISONS by Ben Bagdikian \$1.25

THE NEW RED BARN: a Critical Look at the Modern American Prison by William E. Nagel \$5.95

VOICES FROM THE BIG HOUSE: anthology of Rahway prisoner writings \$1.25

SOLEDAD BROTHER by George Jackson \$1.50

CRIME IN AMERICA by Ramsey Clark \$1.50

OVER THE WALL edited by Frank Andrews and Albert Dickens \$1.50

BLACK VOICES FROM PRISON by Ethridge Knight \$2.45

RETURN ME TO MY MIND (poetry) by Stanley Eldridge, Fortune Society member \$2.00

BLACK FOLKTALES by Julius Lester \$1.50

PRISON WITHIN SOCIETY by Laurence Hazelrigg \$1.95

BETCHA AIN'T, Poems from Attica \$2.50

THE JUNKIE PRIEST by Daniel Egal \$2.75

THE VIOLENT GANG by Lewis Yablonsky \$1.95

THE BUST BOOK (What to Do Before the Lawyer Comes) \$1.25

ASYLUMS by Erving Goffman \$1.95

POST PRISON WRITINGS AND SPEECHES by Eldridge Cleaver \$1.95

PUNISHMENT WITHOUT CRIMES by Isidore Zimmerman \$1.25

BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY by Malcolm X \$1.95

THE THROWAWAY CHILDREN by Lisa Aversa Richette \$1.25

THE ADDICT AND THE LAW by Alfred Lindesmith \$1.95

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DEAD by Danny Lyon \$6.95

THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO by Alexander Solzhenitsyn \$1.95

PUNISHMENT by Ted Honderich \$1.65

INSIDE: PRISONS AMERICAN STYLE edited by Robert Minton \$1.95

THE FELON by John Irwin \$2.45

THE RIGHTS OF PRISONERS (ACLU Handbook) \$2.95

LETTERS FROM PRISON by James P. Cannon \$3.45

SEX IN PRISON by John Haggerty \$1.50

RUN SHELLEY RUN by Gertrude Samuels \$1.25

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT by Michael Meltzer \$3.95

WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN by Dr. Karl Menninger \$3.95

THE PROBLEM CHILD by Alfred Adler \$2.25

DUMMY by Ernest Tidyman \$1.50



THE
COMMUNICATOR

Subscription Order Form

**If You Like It,
Buy It!**

SPECIAL RATES

5.00 for the first one-year
subscription (your own or gift)

3.75 for each additional one-
year gift subscription

Your Name _____

Street _____

City _____

DO IT NOW !



THE
COMMUNICATOR

SPRINGHILL, NOVA SCOTIA

PO. BOX 2140, SPRINGHILL, N.S.

ONLY \$5.00 FOR A YEARS SUPPLY! (12 ISSUES)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....APT. NUMBER.....

CITY OR TOWN.....PROVINCE.....

(MAKE ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO THE "COMMUNICATOR")

The Editor,
The COMMUNICATOR,
Springhill Institution,
SPRINGHILL, Nova Scotia.

Dear People,

We have sent you a complimentary copy of the COMMUNICATOR to give you a look at what we are doing and to ask you to consider subscribing to our publication. We need help; the COMMUNICATOR is given four hundred dollars a year by the Solicitor General's Department, to publish and produce a magazine that costs upwards of fifty cents per issue. We are expected to supply the prison population of Springhill Institution with a free copy of each issue, which we do, and we cover all costs of production, mailing, and sundry costs out of the monies we have been granted and through whatever other methods we can use to gain finances. Our main resource remains with people interested enough in "corrections" and freedom of speech to subscribe, thereby lending their support.

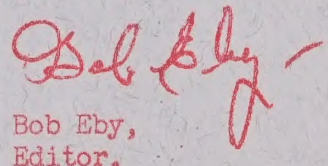
At the present time we produce ten hundred and fifty copies per issue. We publish as often as we can -- which usually means about once every six weeks, although we are striving to make that once per month. A subscription constitutes 12 issues and the cost is \$5.00 -- which just covers production and mailing costs.

It is our belief that the COMMUNICATOR is the finest prison publication coming out of any prison in Canada, and we feel that this statement is supported by a scanning of the prison publications coming out of other institutions. We concern ourselves with ISSUES and refrain from the usual sniveling that is typical of prison publications. We do not see ourselves as a newspaper nor as an entertainment for the prison population. It is our belief that television and the typical magazines that circulate through these places is adequate entertainment and we choose not to become another form of entertainment for people who need more than placating. Our operating principle is COMMUNICATION; communication between prisoners who feel they have something of value to say to other people who are basically in a position to help make changes in the system of penology and corrections in this country. The average prisoner is not in a position of any power, least of all over other people, and we try to communicate our thoughts and feelings to people such as yourself in an attempt to bring understanding to all of us. The COMMUNICATOR is circulated to lawyers, judges, prosecutors; school principals and teachers; university professors and students; police and their administrators; Members of Parliament and local politicians; social groups that deal with and on behalf of students, parolees, ex-convicts, young people in trouble, and other people working with people. We are broader in our interests than to only concern ourselves with the incarcerated, for we believe that people become incarcerated mainly because they have not been in touch with social groups that could have assisted them in such a way as to channel them away from criminal activities, and we attempt to -- by circulating our ideas and writings to a varied cross-section of the professional population -- reflect the needs and concerns that will, if acted upon, assist all of us to create a healthier and more effective system of dealing with and for people.

For \$5.00 we'll put you on our mailing list and you'll receive 12 issues of the COMMUNICATOR. We'll stimulate you, tickle you, make you laugh, get you mad from time to time, expose you to some more good writing through essays dealing with "corrections" and prose and poetry that is up to par with commercial publications, and most of all; we'll bring home the message that we too want to help in making Canada a better place to live.

And, when you consider the fact that five bucks ain't agonna buy you more than one bottle of Liebfraumilche, you've got a chance to make yourself a real score -- so, CASH IN!

Looking forward with you,


Bob Eby,
Editor.

we're really

ALL JAMMED UP !



WHAT ABOUT YOU
can you afford
to spring for the

FIVE BUCKS A YEAR ?



**HELP
EASE
THE
SQUEEZE**

RO. BOX 2140, SPRINGHILL, N.S.